



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: April 13, 2015
Board Meeting Date: May 19, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
Susan Ehrlich, MD, MPP, Chief Executive Officer, San Mateo Medical Center

Subject: Resolution Authorizing the Controller to Pay Non-Contract Physicians for Services at San Mateo Medical Center

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Controller to pay non-contract physicians for emergency services, emergent services, and services not provided at San Mateo Medical Center and physicians at non-contracted hospital facilities for the term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

BACKGROUND:

Occasionally there is insufficient specialty care coverage at San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC). On those occasions, it is necessary to obtain services from physicians besides those with whom the County contracts. Non-contract physicians provide emergency backup services to our patients when no contracted medical coverage or SMMC staff physician is available. Examples of areas in which shortages have occurred in the past include pediatric on-call coverage, gastroenterology, neurosurgery and cardiac catheterization.

DISCUSSION:

The resolution would also cover payments for services provided by non-contract physicians in other facilities, for SMMC patients referred to such facilities when SMMC does not offer the required service or surgical procedure.

Your Board has authorized the Controller to pay non-contract physicians who provide medical services to SMMC patients since 2005. All patient referrals to non-contract physicians for specialty care services must be authorized in advance and in writing by SMMC Administration. Utilization review will be concurrently provided by the Case Management Department at SMMC.

County Administrative Memorandum B-1 provides that contracts for physicians are exempt from the Request for Proposals process.

The agreement and resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

The agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing access to medical services and/or surgical procedures which are needed but not available at SMMC. It is anticipated that less than one percent (<1.0%) of County patients will be referred to non-contract physicians for specialty care services.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2014-15 Estimated	FY 2015-16 Projected
Percentage of patients referred to non-contract physicians for specialty care services	<1.0%	<1.0%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of the resolution is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. The amount of the resolution is not to exceed \$150,000 for the two year term. Funds in the amount of \$75,000 are included in the SMMC FY 2015-16 Recommended Budget. Funds in the amount of \$75,000 will be included in the SMMC FY 2016-17 Recommended Budget.

Expenses at SMMC are covered by fees for services or third-party payors whenever possible. The portion of expenses for services provided to the medically indigent or to those covered by programs that do not meet the full costs of care is covered by the County's General Fund contribution to SMMC, and are within the existing annual appropriation.