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**HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION**

4160 PATTERSON AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215

Phone: 410-764-2605 · Fax: 410-358-6217

Toll Free: 1-888-287-3229

[www.hscrc.state.md.us](http://www.hscrc.state.md.us)

**To:** HSCRC Commissioners

**From:** Robert Murray *RM*

**Re:** Delay and Reassessment of Final Maryland Hospital Preventable Readmissions (MHPR) Recommendations

**Date:** January 25, 2011

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This is to advise the Commissioners that staff is recommending that we do not move forward at this time with approving a final MHPR recommendation. After further investigation following the last Commission meeting, we have determined that we are not ready to adequately identify inter-hospital readmissions sufficient to link performance on MHPRs to payment.

As the Commissioners have been made aware, staff has worked since the spring of last year to construct a reliable algorithm that matches patients across facilities. We have attempted to match patients using the limited data fields we have which include sex, date of birth and zip code and compared our matching with Medicare MEDPAR data and other private payer data that contain unique patient identifiers. Staff have finally concluded that the patient-level case mix data submitted to HSCRC by hospitals does not contain a sufficient amount of patient identifying information (e.g., last four digits of SSN, first name, last name, etc.) to construct an algorithm that diminishes false negatives and false positives sufficiently to calculate statistically accurate hospital-specific readmission rates.

Staff will continue its work with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on a project over the next 4 months that entails collecting additional patient-level data from pilot hospitals sufficient to create a reliable unique patient ID.