

URGENT

To: Chief Financial Officers – All Hospitals

From: Dennis N. Phelps – Deputy Director-Audit & Compliance

Date: January 16, 2023

Re: Financial Assistance – Elective Procedures

While reviewing hospitals’ financial assistance policies, it has come to the attention of staff that some hospitals are limiting the eligibility for financial assistance to patients with emergent conditions. This is contrary to the intent and spirit of the law as well as to staff’s interpretation of the law. There is nothing in the statute that would suggest that the legislature intended to impose this limitation on the availability of financial assistance. Staff believes that patients receiving elective procedures, as long as those procedures are medically necessary, are also eligible to apply for financial assistance.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at dennis.phelps@maryland.gov.

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