

DHS's Role in the Local Healthcare System

Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) Analysis

Background and Overview

The Dimensions Health System (DHS) is one of nine merged asset hospital systems in Maryland. The system includes two of the five acute care hospitals located in Prince George's County and accounts for almost one-half of licensed beds in the County. One of the two hospitals, Prince George's Hospital Center (PGHC), is licensed for 283 acute care beds. PGHC is the largest hospital in the Southern Maryland region, which includes Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties, and one of the largest hospitals in the State (ranking 13th of the 47 Maryland hospitals in total licensed beds). The other DHS facility, Laurel Regional Hospital, is licensed for 116 beds. In addition, DHS includes the Bowie Health Center which provides hospital-level emergency department services as well as outpatient surgery services.

DHS operates in the tri-state Metropolitan Washington regional market. Table 1 shows the hospitals closest to Prince George's Hospital Center, in Prince George's and Montgomery counties and in the District of Columbia, with the distance and drive times to each. Of the 14 acute care general hospitals within a 30-minute drive time from PGHC (listed in Table 1), over half are in Washington, D.C.

Table 1

**Mileage and Drive Time from Prince George's Hospital to Selected Area Hospitals,
in Rank Order by Drive Time**

From	To	Licensed Beds*	Jurisdiction	Mileage	Drive Time (Minutes)
Prince George's Hospital Center	1. Doctor's Community Hospital	185	PG	4.9	11
	2. Providence Hospital	382	DC	5.8	14
	3. Howard University	445	DC	7.0	15
	4. Children's National Medical Ctr.	239	DC	7.4	15
	5. Washington Hospital Center	837	DC	6.7	17
	6. Holy Cross Hospital	340	MO	15.0	18
	7. Washington Adventist Hospital	315	MO	8.4	19
	8. George Washington Univ. Hospital	323	DC	8.7	19
	9. Greater Southeast Community	430	DC	11.0	20
	10. Laurel Regional Hospital	117	PG	17.6	22
	11. Georgetown University Hospital	535	DC	10.3	24
	12. Southern Maryland Hospital Cntr	248	PG	19.1	25
	13. Fort Washington Hospital	40	PG	18.9	26
	14. Sibley Memorial Hospital	328	DC	13.3	30

Source: MapQuest.com, 10/15/03, 'fastest route'.

* excludes nursery, rehab long term care beds

Table 2 shows where residents of PGHC's service area (a subset of Prince George's County) go for hospitalization. This analysis shows that PGHC is the major provider of obstetrics and acute psychiatric services, and one of three major Maryland providers of medical-surgical services. Pediatric patients primarily use the Children's Hospital in D.C. Washington Hospital Center is the second largest provider of medical-surgical services for residents of these 28 zip codes; PGHC is the fourth largest provider. Data by payer source indicates that Medicaid recipients rely very heavily on PGHC in all services.

Table 2
Hospital Use by Residents of PGHC's Primary and Secondary Service Area,
by Hospital of Discharge and by Service, CY 2002

ZIP OF RESIDENCE	HOSPITAL OF CARE	MSGA	OBSTETRIC	PEDIATRIC	ACUTE PSYCH	TOTAL
Maryland Hospitals	Prince George's Hospital Center	8,187	3,073	340	966	12,566
	Southern Maryland Hospital Center	8,338	885	160	799	10,182
	Doctor's Community	9,198	--	--	--	9,292
	Washington Adventist	4,574	1,071	--	652	6,298
	Holy Cross	3,016	1,880	191	--	5,091
	Laurel Regional	3,554	477	--	393	4,428
	All Other Maryland Hospitals	6,183	911	247	277	7,515
	Maryland, Total	43,050	8,297	938	3,087	55,372
District of Columbia Hospitals	Washington Hospital Center	8,719	1,912	--	229	10,864
	Providence Hospital	2,805	933	--	144	3,883
	Greater Southeast Hospital	2,729	409	83	158	3,379
	Children's Hospital NMC	422	--	2,665	171	3,258
	George Wash. Univ. Hospital	2,073	402	--	98	2,576
	Howard University Hospital	1,874	254	113	80	2,321
	VA Medical Center Wash.	1,777	--	--	203	1,980
	Georgetown University Hospital	1,538	211	143	36	1,928
	National Rehab Hospital	480	--	--	--	486
	Sibley Memorial Hospital	581	225	--	24	830
	Total, DC Hospitals	22,998	4,348	3,016	1,143	31,505
	Total, Maryland & DC Hospitals	66,048	12,645	3,954	4,230	86,877

PGHC's primary service area, as shown in Table 3, is defined as those zip codes in which the first 60 percent of the hospital's discharges live. These zip codes are all in Prince George's County. Very few residents of D.C. use this hospital, accounting for less than 5 percent of total discharges.

Table 3
Primary Service Area Zip Codes: Prince George's Hospital Center

Zip Code	Zip Name	Total 2003 Population	65+ Population
20706	Lanham	41,444	3,859
20710	Bladensburg	8,112	770
20737	Riverdale	20,918	1,339
20743	Capitol Heights	43,287	4,131
20746	Suitland	30,858	2,327
20747	District Heights	42,025	3,062
20772	Upper Marlboro	37,969	2,769
20774	Upper Marlboro	35,503	2,790
20783	Hyattsville	47,951	4,185
20784	Hyattsville	26,506	2,234
20785	Hyattsville	41,828	2,564
		376,400	30,030

Sources: Maryland Hospital Discharge Abstract, and Applied Geographic Solutions for population data

Table 4 shows the distribution of all the hospital patients from these eleven zip codes who were hospitalized as inpatients in 2002, by service and by hospital.

Table 4
Discharges from PGHC's Primary Service Area
By Hospital of Discharge and by Service, CY 2002

HOSPITAL OF CARE	MSGA	OBSTETRIC	PEDIATRIC	ACUTE PSYCH	SUB-TOTAL	NEWBORN
Prince George's Hospital Center	5,745	2,230	250	650	8,875	1,987
Doctor's Community	5,592	36	17	11	5,656	0
Holy Cross	1,518	804	90	4	2,416	729
Laurel Regional	459	95	0	104	658	88
Southern Maryland Hospital Center	3,288	370	65	370	4,093	283
Washington Adventist	2,089	573	1	331	2,994	490
All Other Maryland Hospitals	1,548	260	67	105	1,980	216
Children's Hospital NMC	222	0	1,322	80	1,624	70
George Wash. Univ. Hospital	692	172	1	18	883	142
Georgetown University Hospital	558	103	53	7	721	89
Greater Southeast Hospital	604	110	22	32	768	81
Howard University Hospital	465	70	32	22	589	53
National Rehab Hospital	191	1	3	0	195	0
Providence Hospital	785	434	1	13	1,233	409
Sibley Memorial Hospital	229	104	0	9	342	98
VA Medical Center Wash.	830	0	0	91	921	0
Washington Hospital Center	3,412	871	3	67	4,353	774
Total, DC Hospitals	7,988	1,865	1,437	339	11,629	1,716
Total, Maryland & DC Hospitals	28,227	6,233	1,927	1,914	38,301	5,509

Provision of Key Services to the Community

DHS, particularly PGHC, provide key services to the community. As shown in Table 5, PGHC offers the full range of acute inpatient as well as outpatient and emergency services. PGHC is designated as one of only four regional Level II trauma centers by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems and is the only trauma center located in the Southern Maryland region. The combined emergency department services of PGHC and Bowie Health Center, which annually serve more than 92,000 patients, are among the busiest in Maryland. PGHC is also a large provider of obstetrics services and the only provider of high-risk obstetric services in the county. Moreover, the Hospital serves a large proportion of the patients requiring acute psychiatric services in the service area.

Of even greater importance is the fact that the key services provided by PGHC are relied on by a large indigent population. While there is no commonly accepted definition of safety net, the Institute of Medicine defines the safety net as those providers that organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other related services to uninsured, Medicaid, and other vulnerable patients.¹ PGHC embodies the characteristics of a safety net provider given that they are the dominant Medicaid provider in the region. The Hospital serves a very high percentage of Medicaid patients, significantly higher than other Maryland hospitals in the area and the statewide average.

¹Institute of Medicine. *America's Health Care Safety Net: Intact by Endangered*. Committee on the Changing Market, Managed Care, and the Future Viability of Safety Net Providers. Martion Ein Lewin and Stuart Altman, eds, p. 3.

Table 5
Profile of Dimensions Health System Facilities

Prince George's Hospital Center

- Provides obstetrics, pediatrics, and psychiatric services in addition to medical-surgical and emergency services
- Only designated trauma center in Southern Maryland
- Only provider of high risk obstetrics in Southern Maryland
- Dominant provider for Maryland's Medicaid population
- Major provider of outpatient services, including emergency services, outpatient clinics, and ambulatory surgery
 - 15,000 admissions
 - 58,300 ED visits
 - 6,800 outpatient surgeries

Laurel Regional Hospital

- Provides obstetrics and psychiatric services in addition to medical-surgical and emergency services.
 - 6,700 admissions
 - 38,500 ED visits
 - 5,400 outpatient surgeries

Bowie Health Center

- Provides emergency services and ambulatory surgery, but no inpatient care
 - 33,800 ED visits
 - 5,400 outpatient surgeries

Potential Impact of PGHC Closure

As hospital utilization continues to grow, available capacity in the number of beds as well as the number of nurses is strained. The Maryland Health Care Commission projects that additional acute care beds will be required in Prince George's County to meet needs in the year 2010. In fiscal year 2004, there were 699 licensed medical/surgical beds among the five Prince George's County hospitals. The range of additional beds needed in 2010 for this service category is between 23 and 111 beds. Some hospitals in the area currently have space to accept additional acute care capacity, based on a MHCC survey, but some do not. If PGHC closed, the elimination from the inventory of its medical/surgical beds on the bed need projection would result in a need for between 224 to 312 acute care medical/surgical beds in Prince George's County. This does not include obstetrics beds, pediatric beds or acute psychiatric beds.

Supporting Statistical Data

Acute Care Beds by Service, Selected Area Hospitals

Acute Care Services	PGHC	Doctors	Laurel	Ft. Wash'n	SMHC	WAH	Holy Cross
Medical/Surgical	201	185	84	40	189	247	235
Obstetrics	40	0	13	0	30	28	85
Pediatrics	10	0	0	0	4	0	20
Acute Psych	25	0	20	0	25	40	0
Sub-total: Licensed Acute Beds, FY 2004	276	185	117	40	248	315	340
Average Daily Census*	196	129	86	30	182	227	243
Occupancy Rate	67%	73%	76%	72%	76%	71%	70%
NICU Bassinets	20	0	0	0	0	0	40
Emergency Department Beds	34**	28	22	14	36	26	33

* Based on FY 2003 licensed beds, and CY 2002 patient days.

** MIEMSS designated trauma center for southern Maryland

Trends in Emergency Department Visits, Prince George's Hospital Center and Selected Area Hospitals, Fiscal Years 1995 - 2002

Hospital Name	Fiscal Year							
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Prince George's Hospital Center	57,699	54,020	58,275	54,428	60,497	60,578	57,690	58,312
Doctors Hospital	35,769	36,790	36,940	35,994	35,822	40,187	44,483	48,374
Laurel Regional	27,514	28,335	29,604	33,770	39,131	34,768	36,834	38,554
Southern Maryland Hospital	33,422	34,349	35,877	37,821	40,425	43,997	48,469	52,893
Washington Adventist	38,061	37,653	36,041	34,535	35,872	36,937	38,280	42,581
Holy Cross	49,084	49,029	49,732	48,881	50,383	52,635	57,050	59,256

Trends in Acute Care Discharges, Prince George's Hospital Center and Selected Area Hospitals

	Calendar Year							
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Prince George's Hospital Center	15,769	15,719	14,642	14,456	14,813	14,664	15,018	15,000
Doctors Hospital	8,649	8,259	7,856	7,771	8,009	9,500	9,886	10,912
Laurel Regional	6,463	6,195	5,953	6,276	6,364	6,306	6,302	6,694
Ft. Washington	1,854	1,930	2,135	2,017	2,058	2,173	2,331	2,652
Southern Maryland Hospital	12,108	11,498	11,348	11,099	12,036	12,778	14,238	15,549
Washington Adventist	14,475	14,156	14,504	14,770	15,067	15,262	15,764	16,848
Holy Cross	23,804	23,038	21,645	21,190	21,742	23,002	22,786	23,045

* Includes MSGA, obstetrics, pediatrics and acute psychiatric services only. Excludes newborns, rehab discharges.

**Market Share: Percent of Hospital Discharges from Prince George's Hospital's
Primary Service Area, by Hospital of Discharge and by Service, CY 2002**

Hospital	MSGA	OB	Peds	Psych	Total
Prince George's Hospital Center	20.4%	35.8%	13.0%	34.0%	23.2%
Doctors Hospital	19.8%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	14.8%
Laurel Regional	1.6%	1.5%	0.0%	5.4%	1.7%
Southern Maryland Hospital	11.6%	5.9%	3.4%	19.3%	10.7%
Washington Adventist	7.4%	9.2%	0.1%	17.3%	7.8%
Holy Cross	5.4%	12.9%	4.7%	0.2%	6.3%
All Other Maryland Hospitals	5.5%	4.2%	3.5%	5.5%	5.2%
Washington Hospital Center	12.1%	14.0%	0.2%	3.5%	11.4%
All Other DC Hospitals	16.2%	15.9%	74.4%	14.2%	19.0%

Excludes newborns

**Market Share: Percent of Hospital Discharges from Prince George's Hospital's
Primary Service Area, by Hospital of Discharge and by Payer Source, CY 2002**

Hospital	Medicare	Medicaid	Commercial	Self, Charity and All Others	TOTAL
Prince George's Hospital Center	16.7%	49.6%	15.2%	16.5%	24.8%
Doctors Hospital	23.5%	8.4%	11.9%	6.8%	12.9%
Laurel Regional	1.8%	2.0%	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%
Southern Maryland Hospital	13.5%	8.4%	10.0%	6.6%	10.0%
Washington Adventist	10.5%	8.3%	6.5%	7.6%	8.0%
Holy Cross	5.0%	3.3%	12.4%	1.1%	7.2%
All Other Maryland Hospitals	4.9%	3.8%	5.9%	4.9%	5.0%
Washington Hospital Center	12.5%	2.5%	18.2%	7.9%	11.7%
All Other DC Hospitals	11.5%	13.6%	18.4%	47.1%	18.8%

Includes newborns

**Hospital Payer Mix: Prince George's Hospital Center
and Selected Area Hospitals, CY 2002**

Hospital	Medicare	Medicaid	Commercial	Self Pay and Charity	All Other Payers	Total
Prince George's Hospital Center	17.7%	42.9%	31.1%	6.5%	1.8%	100%
Doctors Hospital	43.9%	8.7%	41.8%	4.8%	0.7%	100%
Southern Maryland Hospital	34.1%	15.3%	45.0%	5.1%	0.6%	100%
Washington Adventist	34.2%	18.8%	38.5%	7.1%	1.4%	100%
Holy Cross	21.7%	17.2%	58.1%	2.6%	0.3%	100%
Laurel Regional	34.7%	16.5%	39.9%	5.7%	3.2%	100%
State Average	36.1%	17.3%	40.4%	4.5%	1.8%	100%

Based on total discharges