

(3) The rates are set equitably among all purchasers or classes of purchasers without undue discrimination or preference--{-.-}-;--AND

~~(4) --TOTAL--NET--PATIENT--SERVICE--REVENUES--FOR--ALL HOSPITALS--UNDER--THE--JURISDICTION--OF--THE--COMMISSION--DO--NOT--EXCEED THE--STATE--AFFORDABILITY--LIMIT--ESTABLISHED--UNDER--§--19--207--3--OF THIS--SUBTITLE--~~

(b) (1) To carry out its powers under subsection (a) of this section, the Commission may review and approve or disapprove the reasonableness of any rate that a facility sets or requests.

(2) A facility shall charge for services only at a rate set in accordance with this subtitle.

(3) IN DETERMINING THE REASONABLENESS OF RATES, THE COMMISSION MAY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OBJECTIVE STANDARDS OF EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

[(3)] (4) In determining the reasonableness of rates for clinic services of a health care facility, the Commission may consider the rates for similar services provided in nonhospital settings located in the same county as the health care facility.

(c) To promote the most efficient and effective use of health care facility services and, if it is in the public interest and consistent with this subtitle, the Commission may promote and approve alternate methods of rate determination and payment that are of an experimental nature.

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(a) (1) To have the statistical information needed for rate review and approval, the Commission shall compile all relevant financial and accounting information.

(2) The information shall include:

(i) Necessary operating expenses;

(ii) Appropriate expenses that are incurred in providing services to patients who cannot or do not pay;

(iii) Incurred interest charges; and

(iv) Reasonable depreciation expenses that are based on the expected useful life of property or equipment.

(b) The Commission shall define, by rule or regulation, the types and classes of charges that may OR-MAY not be changed, except as specified in § 19-219 of this subtitle.

(c) The Commission shall obtain from each facility its current rate schedule and each later change in the schedule that the Commission requires.