

# HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

Bulletin on Independent Community Hospitals

HPC-2019-01

Issued: 01/10/2019

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) has developed a list of independent community hospitals in Massachusetts for use in research and analyses related to its oversight and monitoring responsibilities under M.G.L. c. 6D.<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this list, independent community hospitals are those community hospitals that do not have a corporate or contracting affiliation with an academic medical center or teaching hospital.

This bulletin provides the 2018 list of independent community hospitals in Massachusetts, and explains the methodology used to identify hospitals for inclusion on this list. This list is effective as of the date of publication, and constitutes the HPC's Massachusetts Hospital Cohort Designation and Affiliation Status, as referenced in 105 CMR 100.715(B)(2)(b)(1).

## I. List of Independent Community Hospitals

Athol Memorial Hospital  
Berkshire Medical Center  
Cape Cod Hospital  
Fairview Hospital  
Falmouth Hospital  
Harrington Memorial Hospital  
Heywood Hospital  
Holyoke Medical Center  
Mercy Medical Center  
Milford Regional Medical Center  
Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital  
Southcoast Hospitals Group (including Charlton Memorial Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, and Tobey Hospital)  
Sturdy Memorial Hospital  
South Shore Hospital

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<sup>1</sup> This list was first published in the HPC's report *Community Hospitals at a Crossroads: Findings from an Examination of the Massachusetts Health Care System*. MASS HEALTH POLICY COMM'N, COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AT A CROSSROADS: FINDINGS FROM AN EXAMINATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM 11-13 (Mar. 2016), available at <http://www.mass.gov/anf/budget-taxes-and-procurement/oversight-agencies/health-policy-commission/publications/community-hospitals-at-a-crossroads.pdf> (explaining the methodology used in identifying independent community hospitals in the report and providing the list of independent community hospitals as of 2013).

## II. Methodology

Hospitals are designated as independent community hospitals for purposes of this list based on a two-factor test: First, hospitals were identified as being community hospitals or not community hospitals. Second, community hospitals were identified as being independent or affiliated.

To be designated a community hospital for the purpose of this list, a hospital must have been defined as a community hospital by the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) in the most recent publication of CHIA's Hospital Profiles. CHIA defines community hospitals as all acute hospitals that are not identified as being academic medical centers (AMCs), teaching hospitals, or specialty hospitals.<sup>2</sup> CHIA defines acute care hospitals as those that are licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH), and that contain a majority of beds licensed for medical-surgical, pediatric, obstetric, or maternity care.<sup>3</sup> CHIA publishes lists of hospital cohorts annually in its Hospital Profiles publications.<sup>4</sup>

Community hospitals were then identified as either independent or affiliated. To be designated as affiliated, the community hospital must have a corporate or contracting affiliation with a provider system that includes a teaching hospital or AMC. Affiliation was determined based on public information concerning the hospitals' corporate and contracting relationships, including information gathered through the HPC's Registration of Provider Organizations Program and the Notice of Material Change process.<sup>5</sup> Community hospitals were deemed independent if they did not have a corporate or contracting affiliation with a provider system that includes an AMC or teaching hospital.

This bulletin reflects the winter 2018 publication of CHIA's Hospital Profiles, which provides each hospital's cohort status for fiscal year 2017; hospital affiliation status was determined as of the date of the publication of this bulletin.

The HPC will publish an updated list of independent community hospitals each year, based on annual publications of CHIA's Hospital Profiles.

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<sup>2</sup> CTR. FOR HEALTH INFO. & ANALYSIS, FY17 MASSACHUSETTS HOSPITAL PROFILES: TECHNICAL APPENDIX (Dec. 2018), available at <http://www.chiamass.gov/assets/docs/r/hospital-profiles/2017/FY17-Massachusetts-Hospital-Profiles-Technical-Appendix.pdf>. CHIA defines AMCs as acute hospitals that have extensive research and teaching programs, have extensive resources for tertiary and quaternary care, are principal teaching hospitals for their respective medical schools, and are full service hospitals with case mix index greater than 5% above the statewide average. CHIA defines teaching hospitals as those that report at least 25 full-time equivalent medical school residents per one hundred inpatient beds but do not otherwise meet the requirements to be considered AMCs. CHIA also classifies certain hospitals as specialty hospitals based on their unique patient populations and/or the unique sets of services they provide.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> See CTR. FOR HEALTH INFO. & ANALYSIS, *Hospital Profiles*, <http://www.chiamass.gov/hospital-profiles/>.

<sup>5</sup> See MASS. HEALTH POLICY COMM'N, *Information About Material Change Notices/Cost and Market Impact Reviews*, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/information-about-material-change-noticescost-and-market-impact-reviews>; MASS. HEALTH POLICY COMM'N, *Registration of Provider Organizations*, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/registration-of-provider-organizations>.