

# Introducing a New Value-Based Payment Initiative

To enhance the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery, the Department of Social Services (DSS), in collaboration with Carelon Behavioral Health of Connecticut (Carelon BH CT) is set to implement a voluntary Value-Based Payment (VBP) program targeting pediatric inpatient psychiatric services under HUSKY Health. This initiative forms part of a broader strategy to move away from traditional payment models towards one that emphasizes care quality and patient outcomes.

## Program Launch and Phased Implementation

The program, designed as a performance-based prospective tiered payment model, will be introduced in a phased manner starting January 1, 2027. The first phase will involve Connecticut General Hospitals and Private Psychiatric Hospitals. Institutions such as Chronic Disease Hospitals and Children's General Hospitals will continue with the existing Interim Rate Add-On programs for the time being. This effective date is a change from the 2025 effective date stated in PB [2023-63](#). Interim Rate Add-On program information can be found in PB [2024-69](#).

## Performance Metrics and Reporting

The cornerstone of this VBP initiative is its structured tiered payment system. Key performance metrics include the length of stay (LOS), readmission rates, and connect-to-care (C2C) rates. Performance data collected from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, will inform the tier placement for the inaugural payment cycle of 2027. Providers will be issued quarterly VBP performance reports starting October 2025, ensuring they have the necessary data to assess and enhance their service quality.

## Provider Participation and Support

Participation in the VBP program is voluntary, with options for institutions to continue under the Interim Rate Add-On programs if they choose not to engage with the new model initially. **Program sign up will occur later.** DSS and Carelon BH CT are committed to supporting providers through this transition, offering informational resources and ongoing engagement opportunities to facilitate a smooth adaptation and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

## Contact and Further Information

Providers seeking more details on participation requirements, performance reporting, or any specific inquiries can access resources at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com) or contact the Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-842-8440. As DSS continues to roll out this significant program, collaboration with providers will remain a top priority, ensuring that together, providers can drive meaningful improvements in pediatric mental healthcare across Connecticut. Stay informed and engaged as this transformative initiative moves forward to benefit youth mental health and overall wellbeing.

*For additional updates and announcements, please visit the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program website at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com).*