

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Health Foundation's Impact Model assesses the impact of implementing Scenario III of the 2002 Los Angeles County's Department of Health Services' Restructuring Recommendations. This Scenario includes closing hospital beds and reducing ambulatory care services. The Model focuses on the impact of the hospital-based changes and does not include any changes to ambulatory care.

A Technical Advisory Committee reviewed all Model development, including discussions about data (Office of State Health Planning & Development data supplemented by a hospital survey), Model assumptions and patient routing rules (details are provided in the Technical Report that accompanies this report). All Model impacts are reported at the countywide and individual SPA levels.

Overall the Model shows that implementing the hospital-based changes and closures delineated in Scenario III will result in:

- Little impact on hospitals throughout the County. However, the situation will worsen for DHS hospitals that, pre-Scenario III, are operating at maximum capacity virtually all the time.
- All patients waiting longer in Emergency Departments and more of them leaving without being treated.
- Physicians experiencing more difficulties finding hospital beds for the patients they want to admit immediately.
- Physicians experiencing more difficulties finding hospitals able to admit psych patients and, consequently, more patients needing inpatient psych services being sent to Emergency Departments in order to get the care they need.
- Rehab patients having more difficulty finding the beds they need; even those that find beds might not find equivalent treatment.
- Patients without health coverage bearing the brunt of the changes: Most of the psych patients sent to Emergency Departments because the beds they need are unavailable will be uninsured; most of the rehab patients unable to find the beds they need will be uninsured; and most of the patients whom physicians send to Emergency Departments because the inpatients beds they need are unavailable will be uninsured.

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