



HF 422 – Telehealth to Sex Offender Unit (LSB2053HV.1)
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Fiscal Note Version – Final Action

Description

[House File 422](#) directs the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC), which provides health care services to patients at the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO), to utilize telehealth instead of in-person delivery of health care services, to the greatest extent medically appropriate. The Bill requires the CCUSO to document the use of telehealth and any resulting savings in costs and staffing.

Background

Iowa Code sections [263.21](#) and [263.23](#) require the UIHC to provide medical services to CCUSO patients at no charge. The CCUSO typically uses local health care providers for routine health care services such as dentistry, optometry, and routine x-rays. Individuals needing immediate emergency medical care are taken to the local hospital emergency department. Nearly all specialty outpatient medical care and inpatient hospital care and treatment is obtained through the UIHC, which requires an approximate 10-hour round trip drive from Cherokee to Iowa City with a minimum of two staff.

Assumptions

- The UIHC indicated there will be no fiscal impact as a result of providing services via telehealth instead of in person.
- There will likely be savings associated with reduced transportation and staffing costs. However, the CCUSO is unable to predict future medical conditions that may arise in the next fiscal year that could be appropriately addressed via telehealth.
- The CCUSO will need to convert space to a medical clinic within its secure setting; this will include ordering and installing all proper equipment and ensuring a secure line is used to correspond effectively with the UIHC's telehealth system.
- The CCUSO will also need to create a new recordkeeping method to track any resultant cost savings.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of [HF 422](#) cannot be determined, although the Bill will likely result in savings to the CCUSO due to decreased transportation and staff costs. The CCUSO will incur some startup costs associated with procuring the appropriate equipment.

Sources

Department of Human Services
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

May 14, 2019