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## STATEMENT ON INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES

## RICH UMBDENSTOCK PRESIDENT AND CEO AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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The AHA recently expressed concerns to CMS about some large employers offering employee health benefits that do not cover inpatient hospitalization. Hospitals were alarmed that plans could offer health insurance that did not include inpatient hospital benefits.

Comprehensive inpatient hospital coverage is critical. We are pleased that the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Treasury will require that large employer health plans cover hospitalizations to meet the ACA's minimum coverage standards. One of the goals of the ACA is to protect all Americans from receiving sub-standard health insurance coverage that leaves them vulnerable to poor health outcomes and potentially disastrous financial stress. While these types of insurance offerings may not be widespread, hospitals and health systems were deeply concerned about plans that potentially excluded important hospitalization and are pleased with the action to address the matter in the best interest of patients.

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