PROTECT ACCESS TO PEDIATRIC CARE CLOSE TO HOME

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Reject site neutral policies that threaten children's hospitals' outpatient departments and limit care for kids.

As regional care providers, children's hospitals deliver highly specialized pediatric care through hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) and affiliated clinics located in communities—not just on hospital campuses. These sites bring comprehensive pediatric services closer to home, reducing travel burdens and improving timely access to care for children and their families.

HOPDs are uniquely equipped to provide team-based, resource-intensive care for children with complex and chronic conditions. These settings are supported by specialized pediatric staff, infrastructure, and care coordination that are not typically available in independent physician offices. Children's HOPDs offer multidisciplinary services—including nutrition support, pharmacy services, advanced pediatric-specific equipment, and on-site diagnostics such as X rays—allowing families to receive coordinated care in a single, child-focused setting.

HOPDs and affiliated clinics are essential to pediatric health care delivery and central to children's hospitals' mission to serve kids and families in their communities.

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED AT CHILDREN'S HOPDS:

- Subspecialty care, including cardiology, gastroenterology, and neurology
- Hemophilia treatment
- Surgical procedures
- Urgent care
- Behavioral and mental health treatment
- Diagnostics and Imaging

SITE NEUTRAL POLICIES THREATEN KIDS' ACCESS TO CARE

Site neutral policies—including cuts to hospital outpatient funding or "facility fees"—would limit the ability of children's hospitals to sustain and expand outpatient services in communities that need them most.

- **Delayed care for children with complex needs:** Access to timely care could be delayed or deferred, especially among children with medically complex conditions who receive care more frequently in hospital outpatient settings.
- **Reduced access in rural communities:** Rural communities already face provider shortages and limited access to outpatient care centers. Site neutral policies would exacerbate these barriers and place critical pediatric services further out of reach.
- **Fewer outpatient specialty services:** Site neutral policies would restrict children's hospitals' ability to sustain and expand community-based outpatient sites, putting existing facilities at risk of closure and limiting care closer to home.

ChildrensHospitals.org
Contact: Elizabeth.Brown@childrenshospitals.org | Sam.Mitchell@childrenshospitals.org

© Children's Hospital Association

05.26