

experience expertise

CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

Critical access hospitals (CAHs) face ongoing challenges with Medicare, Medicaid, third-party payer reimbursement and compliance issues. From the beginning of your audit process through the completion of your cost report, **we have the expertise you need to help your CAH remain compliant and receive appropriate reimbursement.** Here's how we can help.

Audit & Reimbursement

Financial Statement Audit – BKD provides valuable insight and recommendations as a result of our audits. We can help identify and communicate opportunities for improvement and provide statistics and benchmarks for managers and board members.

Cost Reports – As intermediaries step up their audit efforts on CAH cost reports, timely and compliant reports are essential for obtaining appropriate reimbursement. BKD has expertise in Medicare payment methodologies as well as the operating restrictions imposed on CAHs.

While our clients provide the financial and statistical data used to prepare cost reports, we analyze this data for obvious errors and recommend strategies to help you receive the reimbursements to which you are entitled. Our advisors can recommend improvements in cost allocation, documentation and operational and clinical processes.

Other Reimbursement Services – CAH reimbursement can change annually as volumes, services and costs change. To help you address these fluctuations, we also test available options for reporting and allocating costs, prepare interim cost reports during the year and help develop models to estimate reimbursement on a monthly basis. We also can help:

- Perform reimbursement reviews
- Conduct profitability assessments
- Recover Medicare debt
- Prepare cost allocation studies

Strategic Planning & Forecasting

Quick fixes that improve performance but overlook long-term consequences can do more harm than good. Incorporating performance improvement into your strategic planning process can establish a roadmap to improved operations and better financial health. When it comes to forecasting and planning for CAHs, our advisors have extensive experience. Accurately modeling government-source reimbursement is a crucial component of project planning and financial forecasting. We can help:

- Prepare prospective financial statements
- Analyze capital financing alternatives such as traditional bonds, HUD and USDA
- Assist with operating and capital budgets
- Facilitate leadership retreats
- Develop strategic business plans
- Prepare debt capacity studies
- Structure transactions to strategically manage government reimbursement issues
- Evaluate feasibility of new and expanded services

Experience a clear point of view with a firm that works with more than 150 critical access hospitals and has professionals trained in the industry.

150+



“From a hospital perspective, a key benefit of working with BKD is that they are proactively monitoring how changes in our current operations and changes in the industry may affect opportunities for the future.”

—Dan Probstfeld, Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer
Lake Regional Health System

With a top 10 U.S. CPA and advisory firm, you'll gain from our broad perspective on the issues you face and **experience practical direction.**

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Operations & Clinical Consulting

Operating your CAH requires the right information, but knowing how your hospital compares to other CAHs requires additional resources. BKD can provide the necessary information to help support hospital management decisions by benchmarking your key operational and financial indicators. Based upon what we learn in the audit and cost report preparation, we can help you map out specific steps for improving performance, including:

- Conducting coding and documentation reviews
- Performing third-party payer audits and billing requirement reviews
- Designing internal processes to monitor payments and denials
- Providing training on coding and billing functions
- Analyzing pricing to identify charge adjustments for increasing net revenue
- Preparing contribution margin analysis to evaluate cost allocation methods, staffing and the need for community support
- Evaluating financial and operational performance of major service lines
- Conducting clinical studies of bed utilization, clinical documentation, staffing levels and post-acute care services

Corporate Integrity Solutions

Because of the heightened scrutiny of CAHs by regulatory agencies, it is more important than ever to operate effective compliance programs to avoid onerous fines, sanctions and penalties. BKD offers a

wide range of corporate integrity solutions to meet your needs.

Nationally recognized for its compliance expertise, BKD is highly qualified to conduct compliance projects. BKD consultants have educated providers across the U.S. on best practices and proven strategies and have authored articles in national publications, including Health Care Compliance Association's **Compliance Today** and Healthcare Financial Management Association's **hfm** magazine. We can help you:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of corporate compliance programs
- Provide compliance training and review and update compliance policies and procedures
- Facilitate compliance committee retreats
- Conduct risk assessments
- Develop audit work plans
- Serve as the Independent Review Organization
- Consult on Corporate Integrity Agreements compliance
- Perform coding and billing reviews
- Conduct charge master reviews
- Review coding and billing compliance

For More Information

For a complete list of our offices and subsidiaries, visit bkd.com or contact:

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