



## **Mount Desert Island Hospital 340B Benefits**

**FY26 Savings: \$1.5M**

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Mount Desert Island Hospital (MDIH) is an independent critical access hospital in Bar Harbor. It serves the broader Mount Desert Island, outer islands, and Lamoine and Trenton, Maine communities. Our organization is committed to improving access to healthcare services and to the overall health and vibrancy of our communities.

Consistent with our core value of improving the health of the people and communities we serve, participation in the 340B program and the savings the organization receives help us subsidize primary care across our network of health centers, integrated care services, palliative care, oral health, specialty services, women's health, patient navigation, and behavioral health services for patients and families in need.

As a 340B hospital, we purchase medications for qualified patients at a reduced rate from drug companies. The savings are reinvested in services and programs that benefit our patients. While some services are covered by insurance, many Medicare and MaineCare services are reimbursed at rates below the actual cost of providing care. Other services offer significant benefit to our patients but are not covered by any insurance program. In addition to the programs and services described below, MDIH provides financial assistance or "charity" care of more than \$104K and absorbs \$6M in bad debts along with \$37M in unreimbursed Medicare and MaineCare costs. We are committed to our patients, their families, and each other. MDIH will provide the care our patients need when they need it, close to their homes and families.

Below is a list of some of the benefits provided to our community through this program.

### **340B Program Benefits**

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#### **Primary Care and Health Center Access**

MDI Hospital operates [six] primary care health centers across Mount Desert Island, Trenton, and the surrounding communities, ensuring that residents of even our smallest towns have a medical home within reach. These health centers are Patient-Centered Medical Homes and serve as the foundation of care for the region. Several of these sites operate at a financial loss; reimbursement from Medicare and MaineCare does not cover the cost of maintaining year-round access in communities of this size. When other providers have withdrawn from the island, MDI Hospital has expanded to absorb those patients rather than allow access to lapses. Savings from the 340B program directly subsidize the operation of these health centers.

#### **Emergency and Critical Access Services**

MDIH operates the only emergency department on Mount Desert Island, staffed 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Maintaining round-the-clock emergency readiness is the single largest standing commitment of a

critical hospital, and its cost bears no relationship to the volume of patients who walk through the door on any given night. No other entity in our service area provides this coverage. The 340B program helps make it sustainable.

### **Specialist Care and Imaging Services**

Patients and families can face overwhelming challenges when they must travel long distances to access specialty care and services. Savings from the 340B program help support specialists and specialty services such as 3D mammography, nuclear medicine, and MRI in caring for patients in our local community, as the cost of providing these services exceeds the reimbursement we receive.

### **Oral Health**

MDIH sponsors the Community Dental Center in Southwest Harbor, Maine — the only dental center on Mount Desert Island that accepts MaineCare patients. The center offers dental care, minor dental surgery, preventive care, and education. Access to oral health remains one of the greatest needs in our community, as identified in our Community Health Needs Assessment. The 340B savings program allows this center to remain open and to address part of that need.

### **Integrated Care Services**

Our organization has embedded care management services throughout the continuum of care our patients need, to provide seamless transitions of care to patients and their families when and where they are required. MDI Hospital and Health Centers have embedded care management nurses, diabetes educators, licensed clinical social workers, and psychologists within our primary care centers. The ongoing care and follow-up available to patients managing multiple conditions is essential to their ability to thrive. Our integrated care team also includes palliative care services, a nurse-led team with access to a palliative care resources regionally, for patients with life-limiting conditions.

### **Behavioral Health Services**

MDIH is the only mental and behavioral health service provider on Mount Desert Island, through the MDI Behavioral Health Center. The center is led by psychiatrists, counselors, and licensed clinical social workers who support the ongoing treatment of mental and behavioral health needs in Hancock County. Our community outreach funds an Emergency Department First Dose Program offering Suboxone to patients ready to begin substance use recovery. MDI Hospital is also a core member of a community-wide effort to provide regional substance use disorder treatment by sponsoring the DownEast Treatment Center in Ellsworth, Maine.

### **Women's Health and Obstetrical Services**

MDI Hospital continues to sustain women's health and outpatient obstetrical services for the community we serve. There is an obstetrical care desert in Maine, and MDI is not immune to it. We have geared our program toward outpatient navigation and support for women both before and after birth. Many women must travel two to three hours for critical care services; we are able to care for mothers close to home through the third trimester and to help them transition to a birth center in Ellsworth or Bangor. The 340B program allows MDI Hospital to continue subsidizing access to these services for our region.

## **Cancer Navigation**

Many of our most vulnerable patients have difficulty accessing and navigating a complex healthcare delivery system. MDIH has developed a patient navigator program for those recently diagnosed with cancer or at high risk for cancer. Hancock County has a higher cancer death rate than Maine and the nation as a whole. With 340B savings, MDIH can continue to provide this valuable service to our community.

## **The Importance of Maintaining the 340B Program**

As a small, independent rural hospital, we recognize how vital a rural safety net hospital like MDIH is to our community and to the preservation of access to essential services for our patients. We advocate tirelessly to ensure that care remains available close to home. Restricting or excluding MDIH from participating in the 340B program would significantly impact our ability to provide these services. The 340B program is essential to our rural hospitals.