

## PRESS RELEASE

### Health Council Responds about Imaging Services

**(Hamilton, Bermuda 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018)** – The Government of Bermuda is committed to ensuring that healthcare is affordable. The Health Council shares this goal and is working hard to reduce health insurance premiums.

One of the Health Council's functions is recommending to the Minister of Health what the reimbursement rates (the amounts paid to providers for patients covered by Standard Health Benefit insurance) should be for imaging services. It is a form of price control.

The Health Council's recommendations are based on a resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS) methodology. This is the same methodology as that used by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid for determining reimbursement rates in the USA. It is a robust and transparent methodology for determining the rates that can reasonably be charged by private sector providers for medical services.

The switch to the RBRVS methodology has been the subject of considerable and lengthy consultation and discussion with stakeholders since 2013. The Health Council has always been conscious of the impact of this methodology. For this reason, it was only implemented in 2015 after a two year consultation process. Further the Heath Council adopted a staggered approach to its implementation. The new methodology was applied to ultrasound and x ray imaging service rates in 2015 but to MRI and CT services in 2017.

We regret the decision, announced this weekend, that the Brown-Darrell clinic will stop providing CT scan services at the end of January 2018. It is however incorrect for the Brown-Darrell clinic to suggest that it has been targeted. The Health Council adopts the same approach to all service providers.

The Health Council is confident that, despite this announcement, there is and will continue to be reasonable provision for CT scan services in Bermuda.

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#### About Bermuda Health Council

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council (Health Council) is tasked with regulating, coordinating and enhancing the provision of health services in Bermuda. Led by a Board representing a broad range of sectors in Bermuda's community, and staffed by a team of committed professionals, the Health Council works with health system stakeholders towards achieving a quality, equitable and sustainable health system.