
SENATE BILL 6189

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Keiser

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to hospital and ambulatory surgical center pricing
2 and billing procedures; adding a new section to chapter 70.41 RCW;
3 adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; prescribing penalties; and
4 providing an effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
7 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Ambulatory surgical center" means any institution, place,
9 building, or agency that is established, equipped, and operated
10 primarily for the purpose of performing surgical procedures and
11 services to patients not requiring hospitalization.

12 (2) "Department" means the department of health.

13 (3) "Hospital" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.41.020.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) No later than forty-five days after the
15 end of each calendar quarter, a hospital shall report to the
16 department, for each procedure or drug selected under section 3 of this
17 act, and an ambulatory surgical center shall report to the department,

1 for each procedure identified under section 3(2) of this act, the
2 following:

3 (a) The frequency with which the hospital performed the procedure,
4 or administered the drug in an inpatient setting, or the ambulatory
5 surgical center performed the procedure during the quarter; and

6 (b) If the procedure was performed or the drug was administered
7 during the quarter, the average and the median of the price charged by
8 the hospital or ambulatory surgical center for the procedure or drug
9 during the quarter.

10 (2) The department shall promptly post on its official public web
11 site the information reported under subsection (1) of this section.
12 The information shall be posted in a manner that promotes price
13 comparison among hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.

14 (3) A hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall prominently
15 post at each of its admission sites a notice of the availability on the
16 department's web site of the information reported under subsection (1)
17 of this section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Based on statewide data, the department
19 shall identify, and update no less than annually: (1) The twenty-five
20 most frequently performed hospital inpatient procedures; (2) the
21 twenty-five most frequently performed hospital outpatient procedures;
22 and (3) the fifty most frequently administered drugs in a hospital
23 inpatient setting.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department may impose a civil penalty of
25 not more than one thousand dollars for each knowing violation of
26 section 2 of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall adopt rules to
28 implement this chapter, including those addressing:

29 (1) The classification of different procedures and the assignment
30 of items and services to those procedures;

31 (2) The methodology to be used in computing the average and median
32 price for a procedure or drug, which may provide for reporting by the
33 hospital or ambulatory surgical center of unit prices for specific
34 items and services included in a procedure, including appropriate per

1 diem prices, and a method of converting such unit prices for a
2 procedure to an average and median price; and

3 (3) The electronic form and manner by which a hospital or
4 ambulatory surgical center shall report the information required under
5 section 2(1) of this act and the form for posting of notices under
6 section 2(3) of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 A hospital must provide to each patient within fourteen days
10 following his or her discharge a written statement: (1) Clearly and
11 concisely summarizing all the services provided to the patient while
12 admitted to the hospital; (2) listing any payment due from the patient
13 for these services; and (3) indicating for each service where payment
14 is due the name of the facility or individual provider from whom the
15 patient will receive a bill.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect January 1, 2007.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 5 and 7 of this act
18 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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