
SENATE BILL 6496

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senator McCaslin

Read first time 01/15/10. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to estimates for health care fees and charges; and
2 amending RCW 70.01.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.01.030 and 2009 c 529 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Health care providers licensed under Title 18 RCW and health
7 care facilities licensed under Title 70 RCW shall provide the following
8 to a patient upon request:

9 (a) An estimate of fees and charges related to a specific service,
10 visit, or stay; and

11 (b) Information regarding other types of fees or charges a patient
12 may receive in conjunction with their visit to the provider or
13 facility. Hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW may fulfill this
14 requirement by providing a statement and contact information as
15 described in RCW 70.41.400.

16 (2) Providers and facilities listed in subsection (1) of this
17 section may, after disclosing estimated charges and fees to a patient,
18 refer the patient to the patient's insurer, if applicable, for specific
19 information on the insurer's charges and fees, any cost-sharing

1 responsibilities required of the patient, and the network status of
2 ancillary providers who may or may not share the same network status as
3 the provider or facility.

4 (3) Except for hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW and
5 ambulances and aid vehicles defined in RCW 18.73.030, providers and
6 facilities listed in subsection (1) of this section shall post a sign
7 in patient registration areas containing at least the following
8 language: "Information about the estimated charges of your health
9 services is available upon request. Please do not hesitate to ask for
10 information."

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