
HOUSE BILL 1186

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Clibborn, Springer, Johnson, Senn, Moeller,
McBride, Walkinshaw, Caldier, and Fey

Read first time 01/15/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care &
Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to notifications to patients in observation
2 status at hospitals; and adding a new section to chapter 70.41 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.41
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Each hospital shall provide oral and written notification to
7 any patient or patient's representative within twenty-four hours of
8 having been determined to be in observation status. The notice must
9 include:

10 (a) A statement that the patient is under observation status and
11 not admitted to the hospital;

12 (b) A statement that observation status may affect the patient's
13 medicare, medicaid, or private insurance coverage for:

14 (i) Hospital services, including medications and pharmaceutical
15 supplies; or

16 (ii) Home or community-based care or care at a skilled nursing
17 facility upon the patient's discharge;

18 (c) A recommendation that the patient contact his or her
19 insurance provider to better understand the implications of being
20 determined to be in observation status; and

1 (d) A recommendation that the patient or the patient's
2 representative consult with his or her physician about the risks of
3 leaving the hospital prior to formal discharge.

4 (2) The patient or the patient's representative must sign the
5 statement to verify that he or she received the notice and
6 understands its contents.

7 (3) For the purposes of this section, "observation status" means
8 the classification of a patient before a decision is made regarding
9 whether the patient will require further treatment as a hospital
10 inpatient or if the patient may be able to be discharged from the
11 hospital.

--- END ---