
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1552

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Dolan, Doglio, Fey, Senn, Appleton, Robinson, Ryu, Jinkins, Macri, and Leavitt

Read first time 01/24/19. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care provider credentialing by health
2 carriers; amending RCW 48.43.750; and adding a new section to chapter
3 48.43 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.43.750 and 2016 c 123 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) A health carrier (~~shall~~) must use the database selected
8 pursuant to RCW 48.165.035 to accept and manage credentialing
9 applications from health care providers. A health carrier may not
10 require a health care provider to submit credentialing information in
11 any format other than through the database selected pursuant to RCW
12 48.165.035.

13 (b) Effective June 1, 2018, a health carrier shall make a
14 determination approving or denying a credentialing application
15 submitted to the carrier no later than ninety days after receiving a
16 complete application from a health care provider.

17 (c) Effective June 1, 2020, a health carrier shall make a
18 determination approving or denying a credentialing application
19 submitted to the carrier no later than ninety days after receiving a
20 complete application from a health care provider. All determinations

1 made by a health carrier in approving or denying credentialing
2 applications must average no more than sixty days.

3 (d) This section does not require health carriers to approve a
4 credentialing application or to place providers into a network.

5 (2) This section does not apply to health care entities that
6 utilize credentialing delegation arrangements in the credentialing of
7 their health care providers with health carriers.

8 (3) For purposes of this section, "credentialing" means the
9 collection, verification, and assessment of whether a health care
10 provider meets relevant licensing, education, and training
11 requirements.

12 (4) Nothing in this section creates an oversight or enforcement
13 duty on behalf of the office of the insurance commissioner against a
14 health carrier for failure to comply with the terms of this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) If a carrier approves a health care provider's credentialing
18 application, upon completion of the credentialing process, the
19 carrier must reimburse a health care provider under the following
20 circumstances:

21 (a) When credentialing a new health care provider through a new
22 provider contract, the carrier must reimburse the health care
23 provider for covered services provided to the carrier's enrollee
24 retroactively to the date of contract effectiveness if the
25 credentialing process extends beyond the effective date of the new
26 contract.

27 (b) When credentialing a provider to be added to an approved and
28 in-use provider contract where a relationship existed between the
29 carrier and the health care provider or the entity for whom the
30 health care provider is employed or engaged at the time the health
31 care provider submitted the completed credentialing application, the
32 carrier must reimburse the health care provider for covered health
33 care services provided to the carrier's enrollees during the
34 credentialing process beginning when the health care provider
35 submitted a completed credentialing application to the carrier.

36 (2) The health carrier must reimburse the health care provider at
37 the contracted rate for the applicable health benefit plan that the
38 health care provider would have been paid at the time the services

1 were provided if the health care provider were fully credentialed by
2 the carrier.

3 (3) Nothing in this section requires reimbursement of health care
4 provider-rendered services that are not benefits or services covered
5 by the health carrier's health benefit plan.

6 (4) Nothing in this section requires a health carrier to pay
7 reimbursement for any covered medical services provided by a health
8 care provider applicant if the health care provider's credentialing
9 application is not approved or if the carrier and health care
10 provider do not enter into a contractual relationship.

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