
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1430

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Simmons, Leavitt, Macri, Thai, Tharinger, Parshley, Reeves, Alvarado, Pollet, Rule, Stonier, Berg, Street, Goodman, Ormsby, Mena, Farivar, Entenman, Fosse, Callan, Davis, Ramel, Taylor, Lekanoff, Berry, Reed, Shavers, Cortes, Fey, Salahuddin, and Hill)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring health carriers to reimburse
2 advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants at the
3 same rate as physicians for the same services; adding a new section
4 to chapter 48.43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Health care workforce shortages are one of
7 the most significant, and potentially long-lasting, impacts of the
8 COVID-19 pandemic. Given the gravity of these shortages and the
9 threat they present to health care access, the legislature recognizes
10 the importance of supporting health care practitioners throughout the
11 state. This act intends to help health systems, clinics, and private
12 practices maintain a sufficient number of health care providers,
13 especially in underserved and rural communities, by requiring health
14 carriers to reimburse advanced practice registered nurses, physician
15 assistants, and physicians the same rate for providing the same
16 health care services.

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

19 (1)(a) For health plans other than health plans offered to public
20 employees and dependents under chapter 41.05 RCW issued or renewed on

1 or after January 1, 2026, a health carrier may not reimburse a
2 contracted health care practitioner who is an advanced practice
3 registered nurse licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW or physician
4 assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW in an amount less than
5 the amount that the health carrier would reimburse for the same
6 service if provided by a contracted provider who is a physician
7 licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW in the same service area
8 when an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant is:

9 (i) Providing primary care services; or

10 (ii) Providing behavioral health care services, including
11 medication management and therapy.

12 (b) A carrier may not pay a contracted physician licensed under
13 chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW more by making nonclaims based payments to
14 physicians that are not also made available to advanced practice
15 registered nurses licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW or physician
16 assistants licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW for the same service in
17 the same service area.

18 (2) A health carrier may not reduce the reimbursement amount paid
19 to physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW to comply
20 with this section.

21 (3) The office of the insurance commissioner shall collect data
22 on the implementation of this section beginning January 1, 2026, from
23 health carriers or from other available sources, including but not
24 limited to the all-payer health care claims database established in
25 RCW 43.371.020. The commissioner shall report to the relevant
26 committees of the legislature, in the manner provided in RCW
27 43.01.036, no later than July 1, 2027:

28 (a) The number of health carriers that changed reimbursement
29 rates in response to this section;

30 (b) The number of advanced practice registered nurses and
31 physician assistants whose reimbursement rates were increased as a
32 result of this section;

33 (c) The number of physicians whose reimbursement rates were
34 decreased as a result of this section; and

35 (d) The costs incurred by each health carrier to implement this
36 section.

37 (4) This section does not apply to advanced practice registered
38 nurses or physician assistants who are employees of a health
39 maintenance organization regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW.

1 (5) For purposes of this section, "service area" means the
2 geographic area or areas where a specific product is issued and
3 rated, accepts members or enrollees, and covers provided services. A
4 service area must be defined by the county or counties included
5 unless, the commissioner permits limitation of a service area by zip
6 code in rule or an applicable payment methodology uses an alternative
7 service area designation.

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