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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1430**

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**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) 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. A  
8 carrier may not pay a contracted physician licensed under chapter  
9 18.57 or 18.71 RCW more by making nonclaims based payments to  
10 physicians that are not also made available to advanced practice  
11 registered nurses licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW or physician  
12 assistants licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW for the same service in  
13 the same service area.

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

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

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

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

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

31 (d) The costs incurred by each health carrier to implement this  
32 section.

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

36 (5) For purposes of this section, "service area" means the  
37 geographic area or areas where a specific product is issued and  
38 rated, accepts members or enrollees, and covers provided services. A  
39 service area must be defined by the county or counties included  
40 unless, the commissioner permits limitation of a service area by zip

1 code in rule or an applicable payment methodology uses an alternative  
2 service area designation.

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