

STATE OF NEW YORK

4241--B

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2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 6, 2017

Introduced by Sens. SEWARD, AMEDORE, KRUEGER, LARKIN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading -- recommitted to the Committee on Insurance in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the financial services law, in relation to establishing protections from excessive hospital emergency charges

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 605 of the financial services law, as added by
2 section 26 of part H of chapter 60 of the laws of 2014, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 § 605. Dispute resolution for emergency services. (a) Emergency
5 services for an insured. (1) When a health care plan receives a bill for
6 emergency services from a non-participating physician or hospital, the
7 health care plan shall pay an amount that it determines is reasonable
8 for the emergency services rendered by the non-participating physician
9 or hospital, in accordance with section three thousand two hundred twen-
10 ty-four-a of the insurance law, except for the insured's co-payment,
11 coinsurance or deductible, if any, and shall ensure that the insured
12 shall incur no greater out-of-pocket costs for the emergency services
13 than the insured would have incurred with a participating physician or
14 hospital pursuant to subsection (c) of section three thousand two
15 hundred forty-one of the insurance law.

16 (2) A non-participating physician or hospital or a health care plan
17 may submit a dispute regarding a fee or payment for emergency services
18 for review to an independent dispute resolution entity. In cases where

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 a health care plan submits a dispute regarding a fee for payment of a
2 non-participating hospital's emergency services, the health care plan
3 shall, after the initial payment, pay any additional amounts it deter-
4 mines is reasonable directly to the non-participating hospital.

5 (3) The independent dispute resolution entity shall make a determi-
6 nation within thirty days of receipt of the dispute for review.

7 (4) In determining a reasonable fee for the services rendered, an
8 independent dispute resolution entity shall select either the health
9 care plan's payment or the non-participating physician's or hospital's
10 fee. The independent dispute resolution entity shall determine which
11 amount to select based upon the conditions and factors set forth in
12 section six hundred four of this article. If an independent dispute
13 resolution entity determines, based on the health care plan's payment
14 and the non-participating physician's or hospital's fee, that a settle-
15 ment between the health care plan and non-participating physician or
16 hospital is reasonably likely, or that both the health care plan's
17 payment and the non-participating physician's or hospital's fee repre-
18 sent unreasonable extremes, then the independent dispute resolution
19 entity may direct both parties to attempt a good faith negotiation for
20 settlement. The health care plan and non-participating physician or
21 hospital may be granted up to ten business days for this negotiation,
22 which shall run concurrently with the thirty day period for dispute
23 resolution.

24 (b) Emergency services for a patient that is not an insured. (1) A
25 patient that is not an insured or the patient's physician may submit a
26 dispute regarding a fee for emergency services for review to an inde-
27 pendent dispute resolution entity upon approval of the superintendent.

28 (2) An independent dispute resolution entity shall determine a reason-
29 able fee for the services based upon the same conditions and factors set
30 forth in section six hundred four of this article.

31 (3) A patient that is not an insured shall not be required to pay the
32 physician's or hospital's fee in order to be eligible to submit the
33 dispute for review to an independent dispute resolution entity.

34 (c) The determination of an independent dispute resolution entity
35 shall be binding on the health care plan, physician or hospital and
36 patient, and shall be admissible in any court proceeding between the
37 health care plan, physician or hospital or patient, or in any adminis-
38 trative proceeding between this state and the physician or hospital.

39 § 2. Subdivision (a) of section 608 of the financial services law, as
40 added by section 26 of part H of chapter 60 of the laws of 2014, is
41 amended to read as follows:

42 (a) For disputes involving an insured, when the independent dispute
43 resolution entity determines the health care plan's payment is reason-
44 able, payment for the dispute resolution process shall be the responsi-
45 bility of the non-participating physician or hospital. When the inde-
46 pendent dispute resolution entity determines the non-participating
47 physician's or hospital's fee is reasonable, payment for the dispute
48 resolution process shall be the responsibility of the health care plan.
49 When a good faith negotiation directed by the independent dispute resolu-
50 tion entity pursuant to paragraph four of subsection (a) of section six
51 hundred five of this article, or paragraph six of subsection (a) of
52 section six hundred seven of this article results in a settlement
53 between the health care plan and non-participating physician, the health
54 care plan and the non-participating physician or hospital shall evenly
55 divide and share the prorated cost for dispute resolution.

§ 3. Section 604 of the financial services law, as added by section 26 of part H of chapter 60 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

§ 604. Criteria for determining a reasonable fee. In determining the appropriate amount to pay for a health care service, an independent dispute resolution entity shall consider all relevant factors, including:

(a) whether there is a gross disparity between the fee charged by the ~~physician~~ health care provider for services rendered as compared to:

(1) fees paid to the involved ~~physician~~ health care provider for the same services rendered by the ~~physician~~ health care provider to other patients in health care plans in which the ~~physician~~ health care provider is not participating, and

(2) in the case of a dispute involving a health care plan, fees paid by the health care plan to reimburse similarly qualified ~~physicians~~ health care providers for the same services in the same region who are not participating with the health care plan;

(b) the level of training, education and experience of the ~~physician~~ health care provider;

(c) the ~~physician's~~ health care provider's usual charge for comparable services with regard to patients in health care plans in which the ~~physician~~ health care provider is not participating;

(d) the circumstances and complexity of the particular case, including time and place of the service;

(e) individual patient characteristics; and, where applicable,

(f) the usual and customary cost of the service.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.