STATE OF NEW YORK

4119

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 28, 2019

Introduced by Sen. LIU -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the protection of private patient information by ambulance services

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 3006-a to read as follows:

§ 3006-a. Patient privacy. 1. As used in this section:

(a) "Individual identifying information" means information identifying or tending to identify a patient.

(b) "Marketing" means advertising, detailing, marketing, promotion, or any other activity that is intended to be used to influence business volume, sales or market share or evaluate the effectiveness of marketing practices or marketing personnel, regardless of whether the beneficiary of the marketing is a governmental, for-profit, or not-for-profit entity.

2. No ambulance service, advanced life support first response service, or employee, member or agent thereof shall disclose, sell, transfer, exchange, provide or use any individual identifying information to any person or entity for the purpose of marketing.

3. Notwithstanding subdivision two of this section, and subject to otherwise applicable law, individual identifying information may be:

(a) disclosed, sold, transferred or exchanged to:

(i) the patient who is the subject of the information, or a person authorized to make health care decisions for the patient;

(ii) a health care provider providing care or treatment to the patient, for the purpose of such care or treatment; or a health information system subject to regulations of the department, for the purpose of such care or treatment;

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

LBD02658-01-9

(iii) an officer, inspector or investigator for a government health, licensing or law enforcement agency acting under appropriate legal authority;

(iv) a person authorized by a court order or a subpoena to receive such information;

(v) the patient's health plan, insurer, or third party payer, or an agent thereof, for the purpose of payment or reimbursement for health care services, including determining compliance with the terms of coverage or medical necessity, or utilization review;

(vi) a person or entity to whom, and for a purpose for which, disclosure or transfer is otherwise explicitly authorized or required by law;

(vii) a person or entity, for the purpose of conducting quality assurance or evaluating the performance of an ambulance service, advanced life support first response service, or any employee, member or agent thereof;

(viii) a person or entity acting as an employee or agent of a person or entity under any preceding paragraph of this subdivision, for the purpose of and consistent with that paragraph; or

(ix) a government entity as provided by law; and

(b) used by such ambulance service, advanced life support first responder service, or employee, member or agent thereof, for training, promotion, staff recognition or recruitment purposes, consistent with applicable law, provided the patient or a qualified person as defined by paragraph (G) of subdivision one of section eighteen of this chapter has provided consent to such use in a separate, stand-alone document. Such consent shall be limited to the particular type or types of use and specific transaction or transactions for which such consent is given.

4. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the collection, use, transfer, or sale of patient data by zip code, geographic region, or medical specialty for marketing purposes, providing it does not contain individual identifying information.

5. This section shall not prevent a person from disclosing, selling, transferring, or exchanging for value his or her own individual identifying information, for any purpose; provided that the information does not include individual identifying information pertaining to any other person.

6. This section does not prohibit a not-for-profit or governmental ambulance service or advanced life support first response service, or agent thereof, from using a patient's name and address in order to contact such patient or a family member at such address with requests for donations to such service; providing that such use shall not include disclosing any individual identifying information.

7. No person or entity to whom or which individual identifying information is disclosed, sold, transferred or exchanged shall disclose, sell, transfer or exchange it to any person or entity other than for the lawful purpose for which it was disclosed, sold, transferred or exchanged to the person or entity, and without satisfactory assurance that the recipient will safeguard the records from being disclosed or used for marketing purposes.

8. This section does not authorize any disclosure, sale, transfer, or exchange of individual identifying information that is not otherwise authorized or required by law.

9. In addition to the commissioner's authority to enforce this section under section three thousand twelve of this article, the attorney general shall have the authority to bring an action to enforce compliance with this section without referral by the commissioner.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided that, effective immediately, the commissioner of health may make regulations and take other actions reasonably necessary to implement this act on such date.