STATE OF NEW YORK

4566

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 7, 2025

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- 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 rights of patients to receive medical information in an understandable format

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 2803 of the public health law is amended by adding a new paragraph (m) to read as follows:

(m) The statement regarding patient rights and responsibilities, required pursuant to paragraph (g) of this subdivision, shall include a provision informing the patient of their right to receive information and documents including, but not limited to information and documents related to such patient's discharge, diagnosis, treatment or test results in plain English or in a language or format that is understandable to the patient or such patient's family or caregiver. Wherever practicable, such information and documents shall avoid the use of medical terminology and instead use words with common and everyday meanings to facilitate understandability. Such information and documents shall be in addition to the information and documents ordinarily received by the patient or such patient's family or caregiver.

§ 2. Subdivision 3 of section 2803-c of the public health law is amended by adding a new paragraph s to read as follows:

s. A statement informing the patient of their right to receive information and documents including, but not limited to information and documents related to such patient's discharge, diagnosis, treatment or test results in plain English or in a language or format that is understandable to the patient or such patient's family or caregiver. Wherever practicable, such information and documents shall avoid the use of medical terminology and instead use words with common and everyday meanings to facilitate understandability. Such information and documents

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

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shall be in addition to the information and documents ordinarily received by the patient or such patient's family or caregiver.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on or before such date.