
By: Senators Della, Roesser, Derr, Trotter, and Hafer

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1997

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **The Patients' Consent Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a certain notice regarding data collection for the
4 Maryland medical care database be provided to patients under certain
5 circumstances; requiring that the consent of a patient be obtained prior to collection
6 of the data; providing for a certain exception; specifying the effect of the consent on
7 any rights or privileges of a patient regarding the data and treatment and payment
8 for treatment by certain persons; requiring the Health Care Access and Cost
9 Commission to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to requiring a
10 certain notice to be provided to a patient and the receipt of the consent of a patient
11 prior to collection of certain data for the Maryland medical care database.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article - Health - General
14 Section 19-1507
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1996 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Health - General**

20 19-1507.

21 (a) The Commission shall establish a Maryland medical care data base to compile
22 statewide data on health services rendered by health care practitioners and office
23 facilities selected by the Commission.

24 (b) In addition to any other information the Commission may require by
25 regulation, the medical care data base shall:

26 (1) Collect for each type of patient encounter with a health care practitioner
27 or office facility designated by the Commission:

28 (i) The demographic characteristics of the patient, EXCLUDING THE
29 PATIENT'S MONTH AND DAY OF BIRTH, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, AND LAST 2
30 DIGITS OF A PATIENT'S U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ZIP CODE;

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- 1 (ii) The principal diagnosis;
- 2 (iii) The procedure performed;
- 3 (iv) The date and location of where the procedure was performed;
- 4 (v) The charge for the procedure;
- 5 (vi) If the bill for the procedure was submitted on an assigned or
- 6 nonassigned basis; and
- 7 (vii) If applicable, a health care practitioner's universal identification
- 8 number;

9 (2) Collect appropriate information relating to prescription drugs for each

10 type of patient encounter with a pharmacist designated by the Commission; and

11 (3) Collect appropriate information relating to health care costs, utilization,

12 or resources from payors and governmental agencies.

13 (C) (1) PATIENTS WHOSE DATA IS TO BE COLLECTED UNDER THIS SECTION

14 SHALL BE NOTIFIED AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL PATIENT ENCOUNTER WITH A

15 HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER THAT DATA WILL BE COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE

16 WITH THIS SECTION IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSION BY

17 REGULATION.

18 (2) (I) DATA CONCERNING A PATIENT MAY NOT BE COLLECTED

19 UNLESS THE PATIENT IS NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS

20 SUBSECTION AND THE PATIENT PROVIDES CONSENT FOR COLLECTION OF THE

21 DATA.

22 (II) IF, BY VIRTUE OF THE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CONDITION OF

23 THE PATIENT, THE PATIENT IS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE CONSENT UNDER

24 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ANY OTHER PERSON THAT HAS

25 AUTHORITY TO CONSENT TO MEDICAL CARE FOR THE PATIENT AS PROVIDED

26 UNDER § 5-605 OF THIS ARTICLE OR AS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW MAY

27 PROVIDE CONSENT FOR THE COLLECTION OF THE DATA.

28 (III) THE CONSENT OR SUBSTITUTE CONSENT PROVIDED UNDER

29 THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF ANY PRIVILEGE THAT

30 WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY TO THE DATA AND THE FAILURE OF THE PATIENT TO

31 CONSENT TO THE COLLECTION OF THE DATA MAY NOT BE A BASIS FOR REFUSAL OF

32 TREATMENT BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR THE DELAY OR DENIAL OF

33 PAYMENT FOR THE TREATMENT PROVIDED BY A PAYOR.

34 [(c)] (D) (1) The Commission shall adopt regulations governing NOTICE OF

35 COLLECTION, CONSENT, AND the access and retrieval of all medical claims data and

36 other information collected and stored in the medical care data base and any claims

37 clearinghouse licensed by the Commission and may set reasonable fees covering the costs

38 of accessing and retrieving the stored data.

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1 (2) THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING NOTICE OF COLLECTION AND
2 CONSENT TO BE ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
3 SUBSECTION SHALL PROVIDE FOR:

4 (I) A STANDARD NOTICE AND CONSENT FORM;

5 (II) THE RIGHT OF A PATIENT TO REVOKE CONSENT FOR THE
6 COLLECTION OF DATA AT ANY TIME PROVIDED THAT THE REVOCATION IS
7 REQUIRED TO BE IN WRITING; AND

8 (III) THE CONSENT FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA TO BE SECURED
9 AT THE SAME TIME AND IN THE SAME MANNER THAT PATIENT CONSENT IS
10 OBTAINED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND INSURANCE PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL
11 TREATMENT.

12 [(2)] (3) These regulations shall ensure that confidential or privileged
13 patient information is kept confidential.

14 [(3)] (4) Records or information protected by the privilege between a
15 health care practitioner and a patient, or otherwise required by law to be held
16 confidential, shall be filed in a manner that does not disclose the identity of the person
17 protected.

18 [(d)] (E) (1) To the extent practicable, when collecting the data required under
19 subsection (b) of this section, the Commission shall utilize any standardized claim form or
20 electronic transfer system being used by health care practitioners, office facilities, and
21 payors.

22 (2) The Commission shall develop appropriate methods for collecting the
23 data required under subsection (b) of this section on subscribers or enrollees of health
24 maintenance organizations.

25 [(e)] (F) Until the provisions of § 19-1508 of this subtitle are fully implemented,
26 where appropriate, the Commission may limit the data collection under this section.

27 [(f)] (G) By October 1, 1995 and each year thereafter, the Commission shall
28 publish an annual report on those health care services selected by the Commission that:

29 (1) Describes the variation in fees charged by health care practitioners and
30 office facilities on a statewide basis and in each health service area for those health care
31 services; and

32 (2) Describes the geographic variation in the utilization of those health care
33 services.

34 [(g)] (H) In developing the medical care data base, the Commission shall consult
35 with:

36 (1) Representatives of health care practitioners, payors, and hospitals; and

37 (2) Representatives of the Health Services Cost Review Commission and
38 the Health Resources Planning Commission to ensure that the medical care data base is
39 compatible with, may be merged with, and does not duplicate information collected by the

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1 Health Services Cost Review Commission hospital discharge data base, or data collected
2 by the Health Resources Planning Commission as authorized in § 19-107 of this title.

3 (i) The Commission, in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner, payors,
4 health care practitioners, and hospitals, may adopt by regulation standards for the
5 electronic submission of data and submission and transfer of the uniform claims forms
6 established under Article 48A, § 490P of the Code.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 1997.