

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2000 SESSION

CHAPTER 897

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-276.3, 32.1-276.4, 32.1-276.5, and 32.1-276.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health care data reporting.

[S 533]

Approved April 9, 2000

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-276.3, 32.1-276.4, 32.1-276.5, and 32.1-276.8 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-276.3. (Effective until July 1, 2003) Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

"Board" means the Board of Health.

"Consumer" means any person (i) whose occupation is other than the administration of health activities or the provision of health services, (ii) who has no fiduciary obligation to a health care institution or other health agency or to any organization, public or private, whose principal activity is an adjunct to the provision of health services, or (iii) who has no material financial interest in the rendering of health services.

"Health care provider" means (i) a general hospital, ordinary hospital, outpatient surgical hospital, nursing home or certified nursing facility licensed or certified pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 5 (§ 32.1-123 et seq.) of Title 32.1; (ii) a mental or psychiatric hospital licensed pursuant to Chapter 8 (§ 37.1-179 et seq.) of Title 37.1; (iii) a hospital operated by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; (iv) a hospital operated by the University of Virginia or the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority; (v) any person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in the Commonwealth pursuant to Chapter 29 (§ 54.1-2900 et seq.) of Title 54.1; or (vi) any person licensed to furnish health care policies or plans pursuant to Chapter 34 (§ 38.2-3400 et seq.), Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200), or Chapter 43 (§ 38.2-4300) of Title 38.2. In no event shall such term be construed to include continuing care retirement communities which file annual financial reports with the State Corporation Commission pursuant to Chapter 49 (§ 38.2-4900 et seq.) of Title 38.2 or any nursing care facility of a religious body which depends upon prayer alone for healing.

"Health maintenance organization" means any person who undertakes to provide or to arrange for one or more health care plans pursuant to Chapter 43 (§ 38.2-4300 et seq.) of Title 38.2.

"Inpatient hospital" means a hospital providing inpatient care and licensed pursuant to Article 1 (§ 32.1-123 et seq.) of Chapter 5 of *this title* ~~32.1~~, a hospital licensed pursuant to Chapter 8 (§ 37.1-179 et seq.) of Title 37.1, a hospital operated by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services for the care and treatment of the mentally ill, or a hospital operated by the University of Virginia or the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority.

"Nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit, tax-exempt health data organization with the characteristics, expertise, and capacity to execute the powers and duties set forth for such entity in this chapter.

"System" means the Virginia Patient Level Data System.

§ 32.1-276.4. (Effective until July 1, 2003) Agreements for certain data services.

A. The Commissioner shall negotiate and enter into contracts or agreements with a nonprofit organization for the compilation, storage, analysis, and evaluation of data submitted by health care providers pursuant to this chapter and for the development and administration of a methodology for the measurement and review of the efficiency and productivity of health care providers. Such nonprofit organization shall be governed by a board of directors composed of representatives of state government, including the Commissioner, and the consumer, health care provider, and business communities. Of the health care provider representatives, there shall be an equal number of hospital, nursing home, physician and health plan representatives. The articles of incorporation of such nonprofit organization shall require the nomination of such board members by organizations and associations representing those categories of persons specified for representation on the board of directors.

B. In addition to providing for the compilation, storage, analysis, and evaluation services described in subsection A, any contract or agreement with a nonprofit, tax-exempt health data organization made pursuant to this section shall require the board of directors of such organization to:

1. Develop and disseminate other health care cost and quality information designed to assist businesses and consumers in purchasing health care and long-term care services;

2. Prepare and make public summaries, compilations, or other supplementary reports based on the data provided by health care providers pursuant to this chapter;

3. Collect, compile, and publish Health Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) information or

reports ~~voluntarily~~ or other quality of care or performance information sets approved by the Board, pursuant to § 32.1-276.5, and submitted by health maintenance organizations or other health care plans;

4. Maintain the confidentiality of data as set forth in § 32.1-276.9;

5. Submit a report to the Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly no later than October 1 of each year for the preceding fiscal year. Such report shall include a certified audit and provide information on the accomplishments, priorities, and current and planned activities of the nonprofit organization;

6. Submit, as appropriate, strategic plans to the Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly recommending specific data projects to be undertaken and specifying data elements that will be required from health care providers. In developing strategic plans, the nonprofit organization shall incorporate similar activities of other public and private entities to maximize the quality of data projects and to minimize the cost and duplication of data projects. In its strategic plans, the nonprofit organization shall also evaluate the continued need for and efficacy of current data initiatives, including the use of patient level data for public health purposes. The nonprofit organization shall submit the first such strategic plan to the Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly by October 1, 1996. Such initial plan shall include recommendations for measuring quality of care for all health care providers and for funding all data projects undertaken pursuant to this chapter. The approval of the General Assembly shall be required prior to the implementation of any recommendations set forth in a strategic plan submitted pursuant to this section;

7. Competitively bid or competitively negotiate all aspects of all data projects, if feasible.

C. Except as provided in subsection K of § 11-45, the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 11-35 et seq.) shall not apply to the activities of the Commissioner authorized by this section. Funding for services provided pursuant to any such contract or agreement shall come from general appropriations and from fees determined pursuant to § 32.1-276.8.

§ 32.1-276.5. (Effective until July 1, 2003) Providers to submit data.

A. Every health care provider shall submit data as required pursuant to regulations of the Board, consistent with the recommendations of the nonprofit organization in its strategic plans submitted and approved pursuant to § 32.1-276.4, *and as required by this section*. Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 26 (§ 2.1-377 et seq.) of Title 2.1, it shall be lawful to provide information in compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

B. In addition, health maintenance organizations shall annually submit to the Commissioner, to make available to consumers who make health benefit enrollment decisions, audited data consistent with the latest version of the Health Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS), as required by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, or any other quality of care or performance information set as approved by the Board. The Commissioner, at his discretion, may grant a waiver of the HEDIS or other approved quality of care or performance information set upon a determination by the Commissioner that the health maintenance organization has met Board-approved exemption criteria. The Board shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

C. The Commissioner shall also negotiate and contract with a nonprofit organization authorized under § 32.1-276.4 for compiling, storing, and making available to consumers the data submitted by health maintenance organizations pursuant to this section. The nonprofit organization shall assist the Board in developing a quality of care or performance information set for such health maintenance organizations and shall, at the Commissioner's discretion, periodically review this information set for its effectiveness.

D. The Board shall evaluate biennially the impact and effectiveness of such data collection.

§ 32.1-276.8. (Effective until July 1, 2003) Fees for processing, verification, and dissemination of data.

A. The Board shall prescribe a reasonable fee, not to exceed one dollar per discharge, for each health care provider submitting patient level data pursuant to this chapter to cover the costs of the reasonable expenses in processing and verifying such data. The Board shall also prescribe a reasonable fee for each affected health care provider to cover the costs of the reasonable expenses of establishing and administering the methodology developed pursuant to § 32.1-276.7. The payment of such fees shall be at such time as the Board designates. The Board may assess a late charge on any fees paid after their due date.

In addition, the Board shall prescribe a tiered-fee structure based on the number of enrollees for each health maintenance organization to cover the costs of collecting and making available such data. Such fees shall not exceed \$3,000 for each health maintenance organization required to provide information pursuant to this chapter. The payment of such fees shall also be at such time as the Board designates. The Board may also assess a late charge on any fees paid by health maintenance organizations after their due dates.

The Board shall (i) maintain records of its activities; (ii) collect and account for all fees and deposit the moneys so collected into a special fund from which the expenses attributed to this chapter shall be paid; and (iii) enforce all regulations promulgated by it pursuant to this chapter.

B. The nonprofit organization providing services pursuant to an agreement or contract as provided in

§ 32.1-276.4 shall be authorized to charge and collect the fees prescribed by the Board in subsection A of this section when the data are provided directly to the nonprofit organization. Such fees shall not exceed the amount authorized by the Board as provided in subsection A of this section. The nonprofit organization, at its discretion, may grant a reduction or waiver of the patient level data submission fees upon a determination by the nonprofit organization that the health care provider *or health maintenance organization* has submitted processed, verified data.

C. State agencies shall not be assessed fees for the submission of patient level data required by subsection C of § 32.1-276.6. Individual employers, insurers, and other organizations may voluntarily provide the nonprofit organization with outpatient data for processing, storage, and comparative analysis and shall be subject to fees negotiated with and charged by the nonprofit organization for services provided.

D. The nonprofit organization providing services pursuant to an agreement or contract with the Commissioner of Health shall be authorized to charge and collect reasonable fees for the dissemination of patient level data *and Health Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) data or other approved quality of care or performance information set data*; however, the Commissioner of Health, *the State Corporation Commission*, and the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services shall be entitled to receive ~~publicly available~~ *relevant and appropriate* data from the nonprofit organization at no charge.