

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2015 SESSION

CHAPTER 456

An Act to amend and reenact § 65.2-605 of the Code of Virginia, relating to workers' compensation; pecuniary liability for medical services.

[H 1820]

Approved March 23, 2015

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 65.2-605 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 65.2-605. Liability of employer for medical services ordered by Commission; malpractice; assistants-at-surgery; coding.

A. The pecuniary liability of the employer for medical, surgical, and hospital service herein required when ordered by the Commission shall be limited to such charges as prevail in the same community for similar treatment when such treatment is paid for by the injured person and the employer shall not be liable in damages for malpractice by a physician or surgeon furnished by him pursuant to the provisions of § 65.2-603, but the consequences of any such malpractice shall be deemed part of the injury resulting from the accident and shall be compensated for as such.

B. *The Commission shall determine the number and geographic area of communities across the Commonwealth. In establishing the communities, the Commission shall consider the ability to obtain relevant charge data based on geographic area and such other criteria as are consistent with the purposes of this title.*

C. The pecuniary liability of the employer for treatment pursuant to subsection A that is rendered on or after July 1, 2014, by:

1. A nurse practitioner or physician assistant serving as an assistant-at-surgery shall be limited to no more than 20 percent of the reimbursement due under subsection A to the physician performing the surgery; and

2. An assistant surgeon in the same specialty as the primary surgeon shall be limited to no more than 50 percent of the reimbursement due under subsection A to the primary physician performing the surgery.

C. D. Multiple procedures completed on a single surgical site associated with medical, surgical, and hospital services pursuant to subsection A and rendered on or after July 1, 2014, shall be coded and billed with appropriate Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) modifiers and paid according to the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) rules and the CPT as in effect at the time the health care was provided to the claimant. The CPT and NCCI, as in effect at the time such health care was provided to the claimant, shall serve as the basis for processing a health care provider's billing form or itemization for such items as global and comprehensive billing and the unbundling of health care services. Hospital in-patient health care services shall be coded and billed through the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) as in effect at the time the health care was provided to the claimant.

2. That the Workers' Compensation Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment and shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the regulations prior to adoption.

3. That the Workers' Compensation Commission shall convene a work group of stakeholder representatives of employers, health care service providers, claimants, and insurers to advise and assist the Commission in (i) reviewing, analyzing, and comparing information contained within and reports on all possible databases containing workers' compensation or health care data for medical services rendered in Virginia, (ii) reviewing, analyzing, and comparing information contained within and reports on how similar databases are used for the establishment of the pecuniary liability of the employer in other states, and (iii) making findings or recommendations as to how the databases reviewed and the contents thereof may serve to enhance or replace Virginia's current mechanisms for establishing the pecuniary liability of the employer. The Workers' Compensation Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Commerce and Labor Committees by December 15, 2015.