

Initiative #123 - Transparency in Healthcare Billing

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Colorado:



SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 1 of article 20 of title 6 as follows:

6-20-100. Purpose. A DECLARATION FROM THE PEOPLE OF COLORADO.

- (1) THE PEOPLE OF COLORADO ENACT THIS LAW REGARDING PRICE TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTHCARE BILLING TO ESTABLISH COMMON SENSE, ORDER, AND INTEGRITY IN COLORADO'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF OUR NATION. THE PEOPLE BELIEVE TRANSPARENCY, IN ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTHCARE BILLING, IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AND THAT IT WILL NOT, IN ANY WAY, IMPEDE COMPETITION, BUT RATHER, WILL IMPROVE COMPETITION AND EMPOWER PATIENTS TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR OWN CARE.
- (2) THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY MAY FIND PROVISIONS OF THIS LAW ONEROUS. THE PEOPLE, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY THAT IS THE NORM AT THE TIME OF THIS LAW'S ENACTMENT IS FAR MORE ONEROUS AND DANGEROUS, AND THUS, FIND THIS LAW ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN ALL OF ITS DETAIL.
- (3) THE PURPOSE OF TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTHCARE BILLING IS NOT MERELY TO PROVIDE PATIENTS WITH THE ABILITY TO SHOP FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES ON THE BASIS OF PRICE. IN FACT, SHOPPING AROUND IS ONLY A SMALL ASPECT OF TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTHCARE BILLING, BECAUSE SHOPPING FOR SERVICES IS NOT ALWAYS PRACTICAL WHEN HEALTHCARE SERVICE IS NEEDED. THE PURPOSE OF TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTHCARE BILLING, AND OF THIS LAW, IS TO ENSURE THAT COLORADO'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BEGINS TO FUNCTION IN A MANNER WHERE PRICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE AT ALL TIMES. THE PEOPLE OF COLORADO BELIEVE THAT IF THERE IS TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTHCARE BILLING, PRICES WILL BE FAIR AND WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE MARKETPLACE, WHETHER OR NOT THEY PERSONALLY REVIEW ALL PRICES IN ADVANCE OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact, with amendments**, part 1 of article 20 of title 6 as follows:

PART 1 COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE BILLING TRANSPARENCY

6-20-101. Short title. THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 1 IS THE "COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE BILLING TRANSPARENCY ACT".

6-20-102. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS PART 1, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

- (1) "APC" MEANS THE AMBULATORY PAYMENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, WHICH IS THE SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY THE CMS USED TO GROUP SERVICES OF SIMILAR INTENSITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH OUTPATIENT SERVICES.
- (2) "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY.
- (3) "CHARGE", WHETHER ON A CHARGEMASTER, FEE SCHEDULE, OR OTHER LIST OF FEES, IS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT A PROVIDER BILLS FOR A SPECIFIC HEALTHCARE SERVICE BEFORE THE APPLICATION OF ANY DISCOUNTS, REBATES, NEGOTIATIONS, OR OTHER FORMS OF CHARGE REDUCTION OR ADJUSTMENT AND REGARDLESS OF PAYER.
- (4) "CHARGEMASTER", ALSO REFERRED TO AS "CHARGE MASTER", "CHARGE DESCRIPTION MASTER", "CDM", OR OTHER SUCH SIMILAR NAME THAT HAS THE SAME MEANING AS MAY BE USED, MEANS A UNIFORM SCHEDULE OF CHARGES REPRESENTED BY A HOSPITAL AS THE HOSPITAL'S GROSS BILLED CHARGE, OR MAXIMUM CHARGE, THAT ANY PATIENT WILL BE BILLED FOR A GIVEN HEALTHCARE SERVICE

BEFORE THE APPLICATION OF ANY DISCOUNTS, REBATES, NEGOTIATIONS, OR OTHER FORMS OF CHARGE REDUCTION OR ADJUSTMENT AND REGARDLESS OF PAYER.

- (5) "CMS" MEANS THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES.
- (6) "COMMISSIONER" MEANS THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE.
- (7) "CPT CODE" MEANS THE CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY CODE, OR ITS SUCCESSOR CODE, AS DEVELOPED AND COPYRIGHTED BY THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OR ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITY.
- (8) "DRG" MEANS THE DIAGNOSIS RELATED GROUP, WHICH IS THE SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY THE CMS TO GROUP SERVICES OF SIMILAR INTENSITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING HOSPITALS BASED ON A FIXED FEE FOR EACH PATIENT CASE IN A GIVEN CATEGORY, RATHER THAN BASED ON THE ACTUAL CHARGES.
- (9) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.
- (10) "FEE SCHEDULE", ALSO REFERRED TO AS "FEES", "PRICE LIST", "MASTER PRICE LIST", "LIST PRICES", OR OTHER SUCH SIMILAR NAME THAT HAS THE SAME MEANING, MEANS THE SCHEDULE OF CHARGES REPRESENTED BY A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER AS THE PROVIDER'S GROSS BILLED CHARGE, OR MAXIMUM CHARGE, THAT ANY PATIENT WILL BE BILLED FOR A GIVEN HEALTHCARE SERVICE BEFORE THE APPLICATION OF ANY DISCOUNTS, REBATES, NEGOTIATIONS, OR OTHER FORMS OF CHARGE REDUCTION OR ADJUSTMENT AND REGARDLESS OF PAYER.
- (11) "HCPCS" MEANS THE HEALTHCARE COMMON PROCEDURE CODING SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY THE CMS FOR IDENTIFYING HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN A CONSISTENT AND STANDARDIZED MANNER.
- (12) "HEALTH INSURANCE" OR "HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS "HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN", AS DEFINED IN SECTION 10-16-102(34).
- (13) "HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER", "INSURANCE CARRIER", OR "CARRIER" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS "CARRIER", AS DEFINED IN SECTION 10-16-102(8).
- (14) "HEALTHCARE PROVIDER" OR "PROVIDER" MEANS:
 - (a) A HEALTHCARE FACILITY LICENSED OR CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-103 (1)(a), WHICH INCLUDES A HOSPITAL, HOSPITAL UNIT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-3-101(2), PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, COMMUNITY CLINIC, REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, CONVALESCENT CENTER, COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, ACUTE TREATMENT UNIT, FACILITY FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, NURSING CARE FACILITY, HOSPICE CARE, ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE, DIALYSIS TREATMENT CLINIC, AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER, BIRTHING CENTER, HOME CARE AGENCY, OR OTHER FACILITY OF A LIKE NATURE;
 - (b) A CLINICAL LABORATORY REGISTERED THROUGH THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE CMS;
 - (c) A FACILITY THAT USES RADIATION MACHINES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES AND THAT IS REGISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO STATE BOARD OF HEALTH RULES ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 25-11-104;
 - (d) A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR REGISTERED BY THE STATE UNDER TITLE 12 OR ARTICLE 3.5 OF TITLE 25 TO PROVIDE HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND WHO DIRECTLY BILLS PATIENTS OR THIRD-PARTY PAYERS FOR THE SERVICES, INCLUDING AN ACUPUNCTURIST, ATHLETIC TRAINER, AUDIOLOGIST, PODIATRIST, CHIROPRACTOR, DENTIST, DENTAL HYGIENIST, MASSAGE THERAPIST, PHYSICIAN, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT, DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFE, NATUROPATHIC

DOCTOR, NURSE, CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE, NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR, OPTOMETRIST, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT, PHYSICAL THERAPIST, PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT, RESPIRATORY THERAPIST, PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN, PSYCHOLOGIST, SOCIAL WORKER, CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR, PSYCHOTHERAPIST, ADDICTION COUNSELOR, SURGICAL ASSISTANT, SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER; OR

(e) A MEDICAL GROUP, INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION, OR PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION PROVIDING HEALTHCARE SERVICES.

(f) TO THE EXTENT NOT COVERED BY SECTION (a) THROUGH (e), FREE-STANDING EMERGENCY ROOMS AND URGENT CARE CENTERS AND THOSE PROVIDING HEALTHCARE SERVICES UNDER OTHER DESCRIPTIONS.

(15) "HEALTHCARE SERVICE" OR "SERVICE" MEANS A SERVICE, PROCEDURE, TREATMENT, OR GROUP OF SERVICES, PROCEDURES, OR TREATMENTS DELIVERED BY A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER. HEALTHCARE SERVICE INCLUDES SERVICES RENDERED THROUGH TELEMEDICINE OR OTHER REMOTE, MOBILE, OR VIRTUAL MEANS AS MAY BE USED IN THE FUTURE.

(16) "PHARMACY" MEANS ANY ENTITY WHICH ADMINISTERS, COMPOUNDS, DELIVERS, DISPENSES, OR DISTRIBUTES PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 42.5 OF TITLE 12. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE A HOSPITAL, AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER, OR OTHER PROVIDERS WHICH ADMINISTER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AS PART OF A HEALTHCARE SERVICE AND FOR WHICH THE CHARGE FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IS INCLUDED IN THEIR CHARGEMASTER OR FEE SCHEDULE.

(17) "PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE" IS THE PRICE FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT CARRIERS HAVE NEGOTIATED WITH PROVIDERS, PHARMACIES, OR DISTRIBUTORS.

(18) "RETAIL DRUG PRICE" IS THE PRICE FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THAT PHARMACIES CHARGE TO THE UNINSURED OR INSURED BEFORE THE APPLICATION OF ANY DISCOUNTS, REBATES, NEGOTIATIONS, OR OTHER FORMS OF CHARGE REDUCTION OR ADJUSTMENT.

(19) "THIRD-PARTY PAYER", "THIRD-PARTY PAYOR", "PAYOR", OR "PAYER" MEANS A HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER, SELF-INSURED EMPLOYER, OR OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE THIRD PARTY, INCLUDING A THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR OR INTERMEDIARY, THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING ALL, OR A PORTION OF, THE CHARGES FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES DELIVERED TO A PATIENT.

(20) "UNIVERSAL BILLING CODE", ALSO REFERRED TO AS "UBC", "UBC CODE", "REVENUE CODE", "DEPARTMENT CODE", OR "UB04 CODE", MEANS THE CODE USED BY A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER TO INDICATE, FOR THE PURPOSES OF ACCOUNTING, WHERE WITHIN THE FACILITY OR PROVIDER'S SYSTEM A HEALTHCARE SERVICE WAS PERFORMED.

6-20-103. Transparency - healthcare prices - billing practices - providers required to publish - update.

(1)(a) EVERY HEALTHCARE PROVIDER MAINTAINING A PHYSICAL PRESENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING OR TREATING PATIENTS SHALL PUBLISH, IN A PUBLIC, EASY-TO-FIND, AND EASY-TO-ACCESS LOCATION, ITS FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER FOR THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES IT PROVIDES. THE PROVIDER SHALL MAKE THE FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER AVAILABLE AS SPECIFIED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND AT A MINIMUM, AS FOLLOWS:

(I) IN PRINTED FORM, UPON REQUEST, FOR USE WHILE AT THE PROVIDER;

(II) IN NONPROPRIETARY, DOWNLOADABLE FORMATS ON THE PROVIDER'S WEBSITE USING COMMON STANDARDS THAT CAN BE READ AND IMPORTED INTO APPLICATIONS AS ARE IN COMMON USE BY THE

GENERAL PUBLIC; AND

(III) IF THE PROVIDER DOES NOT HAVE A WEBSITE, THE PROVIDER SHALL PROVIDE THE FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER TO AN INDIVIDUAL IN A PRINTED, HARD-COPY FORM, OR A NONPROPRIETARY, ELECTRONIC FORMAT UPON REQUEST. THIS MAY BE DONE IN ANY REASONABLE MANNER INCLUDING A DISC, FLASH DRIVE, E-MAIL, OR OTHER SUCH COMMONLY USED AND AVAILABLE MEANS AS MAY CHANGE OVER TIME.

(b) IF A PROVIDER DOES NOT MAINTAIN ITS OWN PHYSICAL PRESENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING OR TREATING PATIENTS, AND INSTEAD DELIVERS HEALTHCARE SERVICES AT A HEALTHCARE FACILITY DESCRIBED IN SECTION 6-20-102 (14)(a), (14)(b), OR (14)(c), THE PROVIDER SHALL PROVIDE HIS OR HER FEE SCHEDULE TO THE FACILITY, AND THE FACILITY SHALL POST THE PROVIDER'S FEE SCHEDULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AS SPECIFIED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND AT A MINIMUM, THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THE PUBLISHED FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER FOR EACH HEALTHCARE SERVICE THAT THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER PROVIDES:

(a) A UNIQUE IDENTIFIER ASSOCIATED WITH EACH LINE ITEM IN THE FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER;

(b) A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE;

(c) THE CPT CODE, HCPCS CODE, DRG, APC, OR OTHER CODE AS MAY BE CREATED FOR THE SERVICE OR, IF APPLICABLE, AN INDICATION THAT NO SUCH CODE EXISTS FOR THE SERVICE;

(d) FOR A HOSPITAL, THE UNIVERSAL BILLING CODE; AND

(e) THE CHARGE FOR THE SERVICE.

(3) A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PUBLISH ITS ENTIRE FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER IF THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER'S ENTIRE FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER IS BASED ON A PERCENTAGE OF THE CMS FEE SCHEDULE. IF ONLY A PART OF A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER'S FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER IS BASED ON A PERCENTAGE OF THE CMS FEE SCHEDULE, THEN THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL ONLY BE REQUIRED TO PUBLISH THE PART OF ITS FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER THAT IS NOT BASED ON SUCH PERCENTAGE. IN ADDITION, A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AS SPECIFIED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND AT A MINIMUM, A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(a) THE APPLICABLE DATE OF THE CMS FEE SCHEDULE ON WHICH THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER'S FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER IS BASED AND THE PERCENTAGE; AND

(b) ANY OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DETERMINE CHARGES.

(4) A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL, WITH THE PUBLISHED FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER, INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROVIDER'S BILLING POLICIES AND PRACTICES, INCLUDING WHETHER THE PROVIDER AUTHORIZES DISCOUNTS, SUCH AS FOR ADVANCE PAYMENT, FOR TIMELY PAYMENT, OR TO PARTICULAR CLASSES OF PATIENTS, AND THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIES FOR OR HAS SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A DISCOUNT.

(5) A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL PUBLISH A LIST OF ALL PERSONS OR ENTITIES, AS DEFINED IN 6-20-102 (14)(d) AND (e), THAT PROVIDE HEALTHCARE SERVICES. THE LIST SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AS SPECIFIED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND AT A MINIMUM: THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PERSON OR ENTITY AND THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER, INCLUDING WHETHER THE PERSON

OR ENTITY IS EMPLOYED BY, CONTRACTED WITH, OR GRANTED PRIVILEGES BY THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR WHETHER THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER CONTRACTS WITH A THIRD PARTY TO SUPPLY PARTICULAR PROVIDERS TO DELIVER SERVICES.

(6) (a) A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL UPDATE THE INFORMATION IN ITS PUBLISHED FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION PROMPTLY UPON ANY CHANGE IN THE INFORMATION, AS SPECIFIED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; AND

(b) A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL MAINTAIN RECORDS OF ALL CHANGES TO THE CHARGES LISTED IN ITS PUBLISHED FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER, INCLUDING THE DATE OF THE CHANGE, AS SPECIFIED BY THE EXECUTOR DIRECTOR.

(7) IF, AT THE TIME A PATIENT RECEIVES A HEALTHCARE SERVICE FROM A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER, THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER HAS FAILED TO PUBLISH ITS FEE SCHEDULE OR CHARGEMASTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL NOT BILL THE PATIENT OR THIRD-PARTY PAYER FOR THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES RENDERED TO THE PATIENT, AND THE PATIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE CHARGES. THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER MAY BILL A CARRIER WITH WHICH IT HAS CONTRACTED REGARDLESS OF ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION, HOWEVER, THE PATIENT SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS BY BOTH PROVIDER AND CARRIER FOR ANY BALANCE.

6-20-104. Billing practices - itemized bill required. A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL INCLUDE, IN EVERY BILL PRESENTED OR TRANSMITTED TO A PATIENT, AN ITEMIZED DETAIL OF EACH HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDED, THE CHARGE FOR THE SERVICE, AND HOW THE PAYMENT OR ADJUSTMENT BY THE PATIENT'S CARRIER WAS APPLIED TO EACH LINE ITEM.

6-20-105. Provider disclosures - participation in health plans. IF AN INDIVIDUAL PROVIDES HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION TO A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE DELIVERY OR PROPOSED DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES, THE PROVIDER SHALL DISCLOSE TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHETHER:

(1) THE PROVIDER PARTICIPATES IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.

(2) THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES RENDERED OR TO BE RENDERED BY THE PROVIDER WILL BE COVERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH INSURANCE AS AN IN-NETWORK OR OUT-OF-NETWORK BENEFIT.

(3) THE INDIVIDUAL WILL RECEIVE A HEALTHCARE SERVICE FROM AN OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER AT AN IN-NETWORK FACILITY, AND IF SO, WHETHER, UNDER SECTION 10-16-704, THE PROVIDER IS PERMITTED TO BALANCE BILL THE INDIVIDUAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-16-704(2), OR WHETHER THE SERVICES ARE COVERED AS AN IN-NETWORK BENEFIT AT NO GREATER COST TO THE INDIVIDUAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-16-704(3).

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 10-16-147 as follows:

10-16-147. Carrier disclosures - rules.

(1) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO:

(a) PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY REGARDING HOW INSURANCE CARRIERS CALCULATE PAYMENTS OR REIMBURSEMENTS TO PROVIDERS FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES FURNISHED TO COVERED PERSONS; AND

(b) ENABLE A COVERED PERSON WHO HAS RECEIVED AND BEEN BILLED FOR A HEALTHCARE SERVICE, MEDICAL DEVICE, OR PRESCRIPTION DRUG TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT THAT THE CARRIER WILL PAY OR REIMBURSE THE PROVIDER UNDER THE TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN. IT IS

RECOGNIZED THAT THE SERVICES TO BE RENDERED ARE NOT ALWAYS ESTIMABLE PRIOR TO SERVICE DELIVERY. THAT SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION.

- (2) EACH CARRIER SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE AND PROVIDE, IN WRITING UPON REQUEST FROM A COVERED PERSON, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
 - (a) THE SPECIFIC BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT TO A PROVIDER FOR A HEALTHCARE SERVICE RENDERED BY THE PROVIDER TO A COVERED PERSON UNDER THE HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN, INCLUDING:
 - (I) WHETHER THE PAYMENT IS BASED ON A PERCENTAGE OF THE PROVIDER'S CHARGES, A FLAT DAILY OR PER DIEM RATE, COPAYMENTS, DEDUCTIBLES, OR ANY OTHER FACTOR, VARIABLE, OR SYSTEM DEvised AND NOT LISTED HERE THAT IS USED FOR DETERMINING THE PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT; AND
 - (II) HOW THE PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT IS CALCULATED FOR AN IN-NETWORK VERSUS OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER.
 - (b) ITEMS THAT APPEAR AS CHARGES ON AN EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS OR PROVIDER BILLING STATEMENT BUT FOR WHICH THE CARRIER DOES NOT PAY;
 - (c) DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING COVERAGE AND NEGOTIATED PAYMENT INFORMATION BY PLAN TYPE AND PARTICIPATING PROVIDER; AND
 - (d) PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES IN A FORM AND MANNER DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER.
- (3) EACH CARRIER SHALL PUBLISH ANNUALLY, UNLESS DIRECTED BY THE COMMISSIONER TO PUBLISH MORE FREQUENTLY, NON-PROPRIETARY, AGGREGATED INFORMATION FOR THE PAST YEAR, OR ANY SHORTER PERIOD SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER, IN A FORM AND MANNER DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER, REGARDING REBATES OR OTHER FORMS OF INCENTIVE RECEIVED AS THE RESULT OF PAYING FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES OR PURCHASING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OR MEDICAL DEVICES.
- (4) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 2019, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS SECTION, AND SHALL, THEREAFTER, REVISE SUCH RULES AS ARE NECESSARY.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 1 of article 20 of title 6 as follows:

6-20-106. Transparency - prescription drug prices - pharmacies required to publish - update - rules.

- (1) EVERY PHARMACY SHALL PUBLISH IN A PUBLIC, EASY-TO-FIND, AND EASY-TO-ACCESS LOCATION, ITS RETAIL DRUG PRICES IN A FORM AND MANNER DETERMINED BY THE BOARD. THE PHARMACY SHALL MAKE ITS RETAIL DRUG PRICES AVAILABLE AS SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD, AND AT A MINIMUM, AS FOLLOWS:
 - (a) IN PRINTED FORM, UPON REQUEST, FOR USE WHILE AT THE PHARMACY;
 - (b) IN NONPROPRIETARY, DOWNLOADABLE FORMATS ON THE PHARMACY'S WEBSITE USING COMMON STANDARDS THAT CAN BE READ AND IMPORTED INTO APPLICATIONS AS ARE IN COMMON USE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC; AND
 - (c) IF THE PHARMACY DOES NOT HAVE A WEBSITE, THE PHARMACY SHALL PROVIDE ITS RETAIL DRUG PRICES TO AN INDIVIDUAL IN A NONPROPRIETARY, ELECTRONIC FORMAT UPON REQUEST. THIS MAY

BE DONE IN ANY REASONABLE MANNER INCLUDING A DISC, FLASH DRIVE, E-MAIL, OR OTHER SUCH COMMONLY USED AND AVAILABLE MEANS AS MAY CHANGE OVER TIME.

- (2) (a) A PHARMACY SHALL UPDATE ITS PUBLISHED RETAIL DRUG PRICES AND THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION PROMPTLY UPON ANY CHANGE IN THE INFORMATION, AS SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD; AND
- (b) A PHARMACY SHALL MAINTAIN RECORDS OF ALL CHANGES TO ITS PUBLISHED RETAIL DRUG PRICES AND THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE DATE OF THE CHANGE, AS SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD.
- (3) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 2019, THE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS SECTION, AND SHALL, THEREAFTER, REVISE SUCH RULES AS ARE NECESSARY.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** article 49 of title 25.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 1 of article 20 of title 6 as follows:

6-20-107. Provider-carrier contracts.

- (1) A CONTRACT ISSUED, AMENDED, OR RENEWED ON OR AFTER APRIL 30, 2019, BY, BETWEEN, OR ON BEHALF OF A HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN AND A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SHALL NOT CONTAIN ANY PROVISION THAT RESTRICTS THE ABILITY OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN, THIRD-PARTY PAYER, OR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER TO FURNISH PATIENTS ANY INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED UNDER THIS ACT.
- (2) ANY CONTRACTUAL PROVISION INCONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE VOID AND UNENFORCEABLE.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 1 of article 20 of title 6 as follows:

6-20-108. Rules. ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 2019, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF PART 1 OF ARTICLE 20 OF TITLE 6, EXCEPT FOR 6-20-106 WHICH SHALL BE PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD, AND SHALL, THEREAFTER, REVISE SUCH RULES AS ARE NECESSARY.

SECTION 8. Effective date. THIS ACT TAKES EFFECT APRIL 30, 2019.

Submitted by:

David Silverstein, 555 17th Street (Suite 400), Denver, CO 80202
davidsilverstein@brokenhealthcare.org 303-684-7391 (tel) 805-690-8065 (fax)

Andrew Graham, 3464 S. Willow, Denver, CO 80231
andrewsgraham@yahoo.com 303-755-2900 (tel) 805-690-8065 (fax)