
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UNINTERRUPTED MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR WORK-RELATED
INJURIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that needless disruption
2 of medical care services is a recurring problem in workers'
3 compensation-related cases in the State and a serious impediment
4 to the cost-effective treatment and recovery of injured workers.

5 The legislature also finds that the purpose of section
6 386-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is to:

7 (1) Ensure that medical care, services, and supplies are
8 furnished to the injured worker promptly and
9 effectively;

10 (2) Prevent premature and improper termination of medical
11 care and its attendant financial, medical, and
12 psychological hardships; and

13 (3) Assist injured workers in achieving medical recovery
14 as rapidly as possible so that they may return to
15 gainful employment.

16 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that uninterrupted
17 medical care is provided to an injured worker, even if the



1 injured employee's employer denies further treatment, until the
2 director of labor and industrial relations renders a final
3 decision on the matter.

4 SECTION 2. Section 386-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

6 "(c) The liability of the employer for medical care,
7 services, and supplies shall be limited to the charges computed
8 as set forth in this section. The director shall make
9 determinations of the charges and adopt fee schedules based upon
10 those determinations. Effective January 1, 1997, and for each
11 succeeding calendar year thereafter, the charges shall not
12 exceed one hundred ten per cent of fees prescribed in the
13 Medicare Resource Based Relative Value Scale system applicable
14 to Hawaii as prepared by the United States Department of Health
15 and Human Services, except as provided in this subsection. The
16 rates or fees provided for in this section shall be adequate to
17 ensure at all times the standard of services and care intended
18 by this chapter to injured employees.

19 If the director determines that an allowance under the
20 medicare program is not reasonable, or if a medical treatment,
21 accommodation, product, or service existing as of June 29, 1995,
22 is not covered under the medicare program, the director [~~may~~],



1 at any time, may establish an additional fee schedule or
2 schedules not exceeding the prevalent charge for fees for
3 services actually received by providers of health care services
4 to cover charges for that treatment, accommodation, product, or
5 service. If no prevalent charge for a fee for service has been
6 established for a given service or procedure, the director shall
7 adopt a reasonable rate that shall be the same for all providers
8 of health care services to be paid for that service or
9 procedure.

10 The director shall update the schedules required by this
11 section every three years or annually, as required. The updates
12 shall be based upon:

- 13 (1) Future charges or additions prescribed in the Medicare
14 Resource Based Relative Value Scale system applicable
15 to Hawaii as prepared by the United States Department
16 of Health and Human Services; or
- 17 (2) A statistically valid survey by the director of
18 prevalent charges for fees for services actually
19 received by providers of health care services or based
20 upon the information provided to the director by the
21 appropriate state agency having access to prevalent
22 charges for medical fee information.



1 When a dispute exists between an insurer or self-insured
2 employer and a medical service provider regarding the amount of
3 a fee for medical services, the director may resolve the dispute
4 in a summary manner as the director may prescribe; provided that
5 a provider shall not charge more than the provider's private
6 patient charge for the service rendered.

7 When a dispute exists between an injured employee and the
8 employer or the employer's insurer regarding whether medical
9 services should be continued, the injured employee shall
10 continue to receive the medical services prescribed under the
11 treatment plan last approved by the medical service provider
12 until the director issues a decision on whether the injured
13 worker's medical treatment should be continued."

14 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Workers' Compensation; Medical Treatment

Description:

Ensures that uninterrupted medical care is provided to an injured worker, even if the employer denies further treatment, until the director of labor and industrial relations renders a final decision on the matter. (SD2)

