
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that two hundred thousand
2 accidental deaths occur each year in hospitals in the United
3 States. According to The Honolulu Advertiser, March 3, 2007,
4 Hawaii hospitals ranked in the bottom twenty per cent when
5 compared to other states in an analysis that included risk-
6 adjusted mortality, patient safety, and risk-adjusted
7 complications.

8 Hawaii is experiencing an extreme shortage of professional
9 health care workers, particularly nurses. Patient safety is
10 often linked to nursing care. The medical-surgical units and
11 nursing stations of a typical acute care hospital are where most
12 patients receive non-critical care, generally involving
13 regularly scheduled nursing rounds every four to five hours.
14 Nevertheless, acute or unexpected clinical events can go
15 unnoticed for critical minutes or hours, until the next visit by
16 a physician or nurse. The lack of more frequent monitoring may



1 result in negative patient outcomes, higher health care costs,
2 and possible medical malpractice claims.

3 The purpose of this Act is to minimize accidental patient
4 injuries and deaths in hospitals and to ensure that patients in
5 Hawaii receive quality health care by requiring health insurance
6 providers to include in its policies, the provision of
7 intelligent medical vigilance monitoring devices for covered
8 patients who are receiving in-patient health care services at an
9 acute care hospital.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§431:10A- Intelligent medical vigilance coverage. (a)

14 All individual and group accident and health or sickness
15 insurance policies shall include intelligent medical vigilance
16 services or supplies for the subscriber or any dependent of the
17 subscriber who is covered by the policy; provided that:

18 (1) The patient is receiving in-patient health care
19 services at an acute care hospital; and

20 (2) The patient's treating physician recommends the
21 application of intelligent medical vigilance as a



1 precautionary measure due to the nature of the
2 patient's illness or treatment.

3 (b) For the purposes of this section, "intelligent medical
4 vigilance" means the use of an automated, wireless, early alert
5 system that is authorized by the Federal Food and Drug
6 Administration and provides accurate and continuous observation
7 of heart and respiratory rates and patient mobility."

8 SECTION 3. Chapter 432, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
10 and to read as follows:

11 "§432:1- Intelligent medical vigilance coverage. (a)

12 Each policy, contract, plan, or agreement shall provide coverage
13 for intelligent medical vigilance services or supplies for the
14 subscriber or any dependent of the subscriber who is covered by
15 the policy, provided that:

16 (1) The patient is receiving in-patient health care
17 services at an acute care hospital; and

18 (2) The patient's treating physician recommends the
19 application of intelligent medical vigilance as a
20 precautionary measure due to the nature of the
21 patient's illness or treatment.



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1 (b) For the purposes of this section, "intelligent medical
 2 vigilance" means the use of an automated, wireless, early alert
 3 system that is authorized by the Federal Food and Drug
 4 Administration and provides accurate and continuous observation
 5 of heart and respiratory rates and patient mobility."

6 SECTION 4. Section 432D-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 7 amended to read as follows:

8 "§432D-23 Required provisions and benefits.

9 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each
 10 policy, contract, plan, or agreement issued in the State after
 11 January 1, 1995, by health maintenance organizations pursuant to
 12 this chapter, shall include benefits provided in sections
 13 431:10-212, 431:10A-115, 431:10A-115.5, 431:10A-116,
 14 431:10A-116.5, 431:10A-116.6, 431:10A-119, 431:10A-120, [and]
 15 431:10A-121, 431:10A-_____, and chapter 431M."

16 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



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Report Title:

Health Care Coverage; Intelligent Medical Vigilance

Description:

Requires health insurance policies to cover intelligent medical vigilance for subscribers who are receiving in-patient health care services at an acute care hospital. (SD1)

