
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Medicaid is a state program that provides
2 health care to certain low-income individuals and families. The
3 State sets the criteria for eligibility, determines the services
4 that are available, and administers the program. As with all
5 states, Hawaii's medicaid program is funded in large part by the
6 federal government.

7 The legislature finds that medicaid operates in partnership
8 with Hawaii's health care providers, as it does not directly
9 employ health care practitioners but rather pays health care
10 providers for services rendered to medicaid participants.

11 Prior to 1994, medicaid paid providers directly on a fee
12 for-services basis. In 1994, Hawaii implemented the QUEST
13 program to provide health care to many medicaid participants
14 through a managed care approach. Under QUEST, the State
15 contracts with health care insurance plans to pay each plan a
16 capitated amount for each participant. The health plans in turn
17 pay the providers that deliver care to medicaid participants.



1 QUEST Expanded Access was implemented to provide care on a
2 managed care basis to the medicaid aged, blind, and disabled
3 population. QUEST Integration has expanded managed care to the
4 medicaid population that is non-aged, blind, and disabled. The
5 legislature finds that since the implementation of both
6 programs, health care providers have experienced many cases of
7 delayed payments from health care plans contracting with the
8 State. As a result of these delays, many providers have been
9 subject to financial difficulties that impact their long-term
10 ability to deliver quality care.

11 Under section 431:13-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, health
12 plans are required to pay providers on a timely basis when
13 uncontested claims are submitted. Specifically, the law
14 requires payments to be made within thirty days for uncontested
15 claims submitted in writing, and within fifteen days for
16 uncontested claims submitted electronically. Concurrently, the
17 law contains an exemption for medicaid from requirements for
18 clean claims. As a result, health plans contracted by the State
19 under medicaid may delay action on clean claims while health
20 care providers must endure the financial impacts of these
21 delays.



1 However, the department of human services has indicated
2 that the exemption of medicaid from the definition of a "clean
3 claim" is not necessary.

4 The purpose of this Act is to clarify that payment
5 timeframes and interest penalties in section 431:13-108, Hawaii
6 Revised Statutes, apply to clean claims, and to repeal the
7 exemption from the clean claims definition for health plans
8 contracting with the State to provide services to medicaid
9 enrollees under section 431:13-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 431:13-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended as follows:

12 1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

13 "(b) Unless shorter payment timeframes are otherwise
14 specified in a contract, an entity shall reimburse a clean claim
15 or a claim that is not contested or denied not more than thirty
16 calendar days after receiving the claim filed in writing, or
17 fifteen calendar days after receiving the claim filed
18 electronically, as appropriate."

19 2. By amending subsection (g) to read:

20 "(g) Notwithstanding section 478-2 to the contrary,
21 interest shall be allowed at a rate of fifteen per cent a year



1 for money owed by an entity on payment of a claim exceeding the
2 applicable time limitations under this section, as follows:

3 (1) For an uncontested or clean claim:

4 (A) Filed in writing, interest from the first
5 calendar day after the thirty-day period in
6 subsection (b); or

7 (B) Filed electronically, interest from the first
8 calendar day after the fifteen-day period in
9 subsection (b);

10 (2) For a contested claim filed in writing:

11 (A) For which notice was provided under subsection
12 (c), interest from the first calendar day thirty
13 days after the date the additional information is
14 received; or

15 (B) For which notice was not provided within the time
16 specified under subsection (c), interest from the
17 first calendar day after the claim is received;
18 or

19 (3) For a contested claim filed electronically:

20 (A) For which notice was provided under subsection
21 (c), interest from the first calendar day fifteen



1 days after the additional information is
2 received; or

3 (B) For which notice was not provided within the time
4 specified under subsection (c), interest from the
5 first calendar day after the claim is received.

6 The commissioner may suspend the accrual of interest if the
7 commissioner determines that the entity's failure to pay a claim
8 within the applicable time limitations was the result of a major
9 disaster or of an unanticipated major computer system failure."

10 3. By amending the definition of "clean claim" in
11 subsection (1) to read:

12 "Clean claim" [~~means a claim in which the information in~~
13 ~~the possession of an entity adequately indicates that~~]:

14 (1) Means a claim in which the information in the
15 possession of an entity adequately indicates that:

16 [+1+] (A) The claim is for a covered health care service
17 provided by an eligible health care provider to a
18 covered person under the contract;

19 [+2+] (B) The claim has no material defect or impropriety;

20 [+3+] (C) There is no dispute regarding the amount claimed;
21 and



Report Title:

Health Insurance; Payment

Description:

Requires health insurers to promptly pay clean claims for services and repeals the exemption of medicaid claims from the clean claims definition. (SB2667 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.**

