## 62J.823 HOSPITAL PRICING TRANSPARENCY.

Subdivision 1. Short title. This section may be cited as the Hospital Pricing Transparency Act.

- Subd. 2. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "estimate" means the actual price expected to be billed to the individual or to the individual's health plan company based on the specific diagnostic-related group code or specific procedure code or codes, reflecting any known discounts the individual would receive.
- Subd. 3. **Applicability and scope.** Any hospital, as defined in section 144.696, subdivision 3, and outpatient surgical center, as defined in section 144.696, subdivision 4, shall provide a written estimate of the cost of a specific service or stay upon the request of a patient, doctor, or the patient's representative. The request must include:
- (1) the health coverage status of the patient, including the specific health plan or other health coverage under which the patient is enrolled, if any; and
  - (2) at least one of the following:
  - (i) the specific diagnostic-related group code;
  - (ii) the name of the procedure or procedures to be performed;
  - (iii) the type of treatment to be received; or
- (iv) any other information that will allow the hospital or outpatient surgical center to determine the specific diagnostic-related group or procedure code or codes.
  - Subd. 4. **Estimate.** (a) An estimate provided by the hospital or outpatient surgical center must contain:
  - (1) the method used to calculate the estimate;
- (2) the specific diagnostic-related group or procedure code or codes used to calculate the estimate, and a description of the diagnostic-related group or procedure code or codes that is reasonably understandable to a patient; and
- (3) a statement indicating that the estimate, while accurate, may not reflect the actual billed charges and that the final bill may be higher or lower depending on the patient's specific circumstances.
- (b) The estimate may be provided in any method that meets the needs of the patient and the hospital or outpatient surgical center, including electronically; however, a paper copy must be provided if specifically requested.

History: 2006 c 255 s 25