

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public health; requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to collect information from hospitals and surgical centers for ambulatory patients relating to physicians who perform surgical procedures to the extent that money is available; requiring the Department to post such information on an Internet website if available; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

**Sections 1 and 2** of this bill require the Department of Health and Human Services to collect and maintain information, to the extent that money is available for that purpose, from hospitals and surgical centers for ambulatory patients concerning the names of physicians who perform surgical procedures and other data relating to those surgical procedures as part of the programs established by the Department to increase public awareness of health care information. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Department to post that information on an Internet website if that information is available.

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 439A.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439A.220 1. The Department shall establish and maintain a program to increase public awareness of health care information concerning the hospitals in this State. The program must be designed to assist consumers with comparing the quality of care provided by the hospitals in this State and the charges for that care.

2. The program must include, without limitation, the collection, maintenance and provision of information concerning:

(a) Inpatients and outpatients of each hospital in this State as reported in the forms submitted pursuant to NRS 449.485;

(b) The quality of care provided by each hospital in this State as determined by applying uniform measures of quality prescribed by the Department pursuant to NRS 439A.230;

(c) How consistently each hospital follows recognized practices to prevent the infection of patients, to speed the recovery of patients and to avoid medical complications of patients;

(d) For each hospital, the total number of patients discharged, the average length of stay and the average billed charges, reported for the 50 most frequent diagnosis-related groups for inpatients and



50 medical treatments for outpatients that the Department determines are most useful for consumers; ~~and~~

(e) *To the extent that money is available for that purpose, for each hospital, the name of each physician who performed a surgical procedure in the hospital and the total number of surgical procedures performed by the physician, reported by diagnosis-related group if the information is available and by principal diagnosis, principal surgical procedure and secondary surgical procedure; and*

(f) Any other information relating to the charges imposed and the quality of the services provided by the hospitals in this State which the Department determines is:

- (1) Useful to consumers;
- (2) Nationally recognized; and
- (3) Reported in a standard and reliable manner.

3. As used in this section, "diagnosis-related group" means groupings of medical diagnostic categories used as a basis for hospital payment schedules by Medicare and other third-party health care plans.

**Sec. 2.** NRS 439A.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439A.240 1. The Department shall establish and maintain a program to increase public awareness of health care information concerning the surgical centers for ambulatory patients in this State. The program must be designed to assist consumers with comparing the quality of care provided by the surgical centers for ambulatory patients in this State and the charges for that care.

2. The program must include, without limitation, the collection, maintenance and provision of information concerning:

(a) The charges imposed on outpatients by each surgical center for ambulatory patients in this State as reported in the forms submitted pursuant to NRS 439A.250;

(b) The quality of care provided by each surgical center for ambulatory patients in this State as determined by applying uniform measures of quality prescribed by the Department pursuant to NRS 439A.250;

(c) How consistently each surgical center for ambulatory patients follows recognized practices to prevent the infection of patients, to speed the recovery of patients and to avoid medical complications of patients;

(d) For each surgical center for ambulatory patients, the total number of patients discharged and the average billed charges, reported for 50 medical treatments for outpatients that the Department determines are most useful for consumers; ~~and~~



(e) *To the extent that money is available for that purpose, for each surgical center for ambulatory patients, the name of each physician who performed a surgical procedure in the surgical center for ambulatory patients and the total number of surgical procedures performed by the physician, reported by type of medical treatment, principal diagnosis and, if the information is available, by principal surgical procedure and secondary surgical procedure; and*

(f) Any other information relating to the charges imposed and the quality of the services provided by the surgical centers for ambulatory patients in this State which the Department determines is:

- (1) Useful to consumers;
- (2) Nationally recognized; and
- (3) Reported in a standard and reliable manner.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 439A.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439A.270 1. The Department shall establish and maintain an Internet website that includes the information concerning the charges imposed and the quality of the services provided by the hospitals and surgical centers for ambulatory patients in this State as required by the programs established pursuant to NRS 439A.220 and 439A.240. The information must:

(a) Include, for each hospital in this State, the **{total}** :

(1) *Total* number of patients discharged, the average length of stay and the average billed charges, reported for the 50 most frequent diagnosis-related groups for inpatients and 50 medical treatments for outpatients that the Department determines are most useful for consumers; *and*

(2) *Name of each physician who performed a surgical procedure in the hospital and the total number of surgical procedures performed by each physician in the hospital, reported for the most frequent surgical procedures that the Department determines are most useful for consumers if the information is available;*

(b) Include, for each surgical center for ambulatory patients in this State, the **{total}** :

(1) *Total* number of patients discharged and the average billed charges, reported for 50 medical treatments for outpatients that the Department determines are most useful for consumers; *and*

(2) *Name of each physician who performed a surgical procedure in the surgical center for ambulatory patients and the total number of surgical procedures performed by each physician in the surgical center for ambulatory patients, reported for the*



***most frequent surgical procedures that the Department determines are most useful for consumers;***

(c) Be presented in a manner that allows a person to view and compare the information for the hospitals by:

- (1) Geographic location of each hospital;
- (2) Type of medical diagnosis; and
- (3) Type of medical treatment;

(d) Be presented in a manner that allows a person to view and compare the information for the surgical centers for ambulatory patients by:

- (1) Geographic location of each surgical center for ambulatory patients;
- (2) Type of medical diagnosis; and
- (3) Type of medical treatment;

(e) Be presented in a manner that allows a person to view and compare the information separately for:

- (1) The inpatients and outpatients of each hospital; and
- (2) The outpatients of each surgical center for ambulatory patients;

(f) Be readily accessible and understandable by a member of the general public;

(g) Include the annual summary of reports of sentinel events prepared pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection 1 of NRS 439.840; and

(h) Provide any other information relating to the charges imposed and the quality of the services provided by the hospitals and surgical centers for ambulatory patients in this State which the Department determines is:

- (1) Useful to consumers;
- (2) Nationally recognized; and
- (3) Reported in a standard and reliable manner.

2. The Department shall:

(a) Publicize the availability of the Internet website;

(b) Update the information contained on the Internet website at least quarterly;

(c) Ensure that the information contained on the Internet website is accurate and reliable;

(d) Ensure that the information contained on the Internet website is aggregated so as not to reveal the identity of a specific inpatient or outpatient of a hospital;

(e) Post a disclaimer on the Internet website indicating that the information contained on the website is provided to assist with the comparison of hospitals and is not a guarantee by the Department or



its employees as to the charges imposed by the hospitals in this State or the quality of the services provided by the hospitals in this State, including, without limitation, an explanation that the actual amount charged to a person by a particular hospital may not be the same charge as posted on the website for that hospital;

(f) Provide on the Internet website established pursuant to this section a link to the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

(g) Upon request, make the information that is contained on the Internet website available in printed form.

3. As used in this section, “diagnosis-related group” means groupings of medical diagnostic categories used as a basis for hospital payment schedules by Medicare and other third-party health care plans.

