**1688-S2.E AMS MUZZ S5301.1 - NOT FOR FLOOR USE**

**E2SHB 1688** - S AMD **1387**

By Senator Muzzall

**ADOPTED 03/03/2022**

On page 14, line 30, after "stabilization," insert "or by the end of the business day following the day the stabilization occurs, whichever is later,"

On page 30, beginning on line 4, after "(13)" strike all material through "act)" on line 5 and insert "For dispute resolution proceedings initiated under RCW 48.49.150(2)(b) (as recodified by this act), the arbitration provisions of this section apply except that:

(a) The issue before the arbitrator will be the commercially reasonable payment for applicable services addressed in the alternate access delivery request rather than the commercially reasonable payment for single or multiple claims under subsection (4) of this section. The arbitrator shall issue a decision related to whether payment for the applicable services should be made at the final offer amount of the carrier or the final offer amount of the provider or facility. The arbitrator's decision is final and binding on the parties for services rendered to enrollees from the effective date of the amended alternate access delivery request approved under RCW 48.49.150(2)(b) (as recodified by this act) to either the expiration date of the amended alternate access delivery request, or at the time that a provider contract and provider compensation agreement are executed between the parties, whichever occurs first;

(b) During the period from the effective date of the amended alternate access delivery request to issuance of the arbitrator's decision, the allowed amount paid to providers or facilities for the applicable services addressed in the amended alternate access delivery request shall be a commercially reasonable amount, based on payments for the same or similar services provided in a similar geographic area; and

(c) The proceedings"

On page 35, line 20, after "facilities" strike "; and" and insert ". If a carrier is submitting an alternate access delivery request for the same service and geographic area as a previously approved request, the carrier shall provide new or additional evidence of good faith efforts to contract associated with the current request;"

On page 35, line 23, after "standards" insert "; and

(iv) For services for which balance billing is prohibited under RCW 48.49.020, notify out-of-network providers or facilities that deliver the services referenced in the alternate access delivery request within five days of submitting the request to the commissioner. Any notification provided under this subsection shall include contact information for carrier staff who can provide detailed information to the affected provider or facility regarding the submitted alternate access delivery request"

On page 35, beginning on line 28, after "unless" strike all material through "services." on line 37 and insert "all requirements of this subsection are met.

(i) If a carrier is unable to obtain a contract with a provider or facility delivering services addressed in an alternate access delivery request to meet network access requirements, the carrier may ask the commissioner to amend the alternate access delivery request if the carrier's communication to the commissioner occurs at least three months after the effective date of the alternate access delivery request and demonstrates substantial evidence of good faith efforts on its part to contract for delivery of services during that three-month time period. If the carrier has demonstrated substantial evidence of good faith efforts on its part to contract, the commissioner shall allow a carrier to use the dispute resolution process provided in RCW 48.49.040 to determine the amount that will be paid to providers or facilities for services referenced in the alternate access delivery request. The commissioner may determine by rule the associated processes for use of the dispute resolution process under this subsection.

(ii) Once notification is provided by the carrier to a provider or facility under (a) of this subsection, a carrier is not responsible for reimbursing a provider's or facility's charges in excess of the amount charged by the provider or facility for the same or similar service at the time the notification was provided. The provider or facility shall accept this reimbursement as payment in full."

EFFECT: Provides flexibility to the provision that allows a health carrier to require a nonparticipating hospital or behavioral health emergency service provider to make a good faith effort to notify the carrier within 48 hours of stabilization of an enrollee, by allowing that notification to take place by the end of the business day following stabilization.

Clarifies the process for determining payment under alternate access delivery requests (AADR) by allowing carriers to engage in the state arbitration process after three months of good faith efforts to contract for those services.

Requires that the arbitrator determine the payment amount for all services addressed in the AADR, rather than for a single or multiple claims, and clarifies the time period for which that payment amount is effective.

Requires carriers to pay providers a commercially reasonable amount for service addressed in the AADR during the time the arbitrator's decision is pending.