CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1552**

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

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| Passed by the House March 9, 2020Yeas 96 Nays 0**Speaker of the House of Representatives**Passed by the Senate March 6, 2020Yeas 48 Nays 0**President of the Senate** | CERTIFICATEI, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1552** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.Chief Clerk |
| Approved  |  |
| **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State** **State of Washington** |

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**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1552**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2020 Regular Session

**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Dolan, Doglio, Fey, Senn, Appleton, Robinson, Ryu, Jinkins, Macri, and Leavitt

AN ACT Relating to health care provider credentialing by health carriers; amending RCW 48.43.750; adding a new section to chapter 48.43 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 48.43.750 and 2016 c 123 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) A health carrier ((~~shall~~)) must use the database selected pursuant to RCW 48.165.035 to accept and manage credentialing applications from health care providers. A health carrier may not require a health care provider to submit credentialing information in any format other than through the database selected pursuant to RCW 48.165.035.

(b) Effective June 1, 2018, a health carrier shall make a determination approving or denying a credentialing application submitted to the carrier no later than ninety days after receiving a complete application from a health care provider.

(c) Effective June 1, 2020, a health carrier shall make a determination approving or denying a credentialing application submitted to the carrier no later than ninety days after receiving a complete application from a health care provider. All determinations made by a health carrier in approving or denying credentialing applications must average no more than sixty days.

(d) This section does not require health carriers to approve a credentialing application or to place providers into a network.

(2) This section does not apply to health care entities that utilize credentialing delegation arrangements in the credentialing of their health care providers with health carriers.

(3) For purposes of this section, "credentialing" means the collection, verification, and assessment of whether a health care provider meets relevant licensing, education, and training requirements.

(4) Nothing in this section creates an oversight or enforcement duty on behalf of the office of the insurance commissioner against a health carrier for failure to comply with the terms of this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

(1) If a carrier approves a health care provider's credentialing application, upon completion of the credentialing process, the carrier must reimburse a health care provider under the following circumstances:

(a) When credentialing a new health care provider through a new provider contract, the carrier must reimburse the health care provider for covered services provided to the carrier's enrollee retroactively to the date of contract effectiveness if the credentialing process extends beyond the effective date of the new contract.

(b) When credentialing a provider to be added to an approved and in-use provider contract where a relationship existed between the carrier and the health care provider or the entity for whom the health care provider is employed or engaged at the time the health care provider submitted the completed credentialing application, the carrier must reimburse the health care provider for covered health care services provided to the carrier's enrollees during the credentialing process beginning when the health care provider submitted a completed credentialing application to the carrier.

(2) The health carrier must reimburse the health care provider at the contracted rate for the applicable health benefit plan that the health care provider would have been paid at the time the services were provided if the health care provider were fully credentialed by the carrier.

(3) Nothing in this section requires reimbursement of health care provider-rendered services that are not benefits or services covered by the health carrier's health benefit plan.

(4) Nothing in this section requires a health carrier to pay reimbursement for any covered medical services provided by a health care provider applicant if the health care provider's credentialing application is not approved or if the carrier and health care provider do not enter into a contractual relationship.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW to read as follows:

(1) In order to protect patients and ensure that they benefit from seamless quality care when contracted providers are absent from their practices or when there is a temporary vacancy in a position while a hospital, rural health clinic, or rural provider is recruiting to meet patient demand, hospitals, rural health clinics, and rural providers may use substitute providers to provide services. Medicaid managed care organizations must allow for the use of substitute providers and provide payment consistent with the provisions in this section.

(2) Hospitals, rural health clinics, and rural providers that are contracted with a medicaid managed care organization may use substitute providers that are not contracted with a managed care organization when:

(a) A contracted provider is absent for a limited period of time due to vacation, illness, disability, continuing medical education, or other short-term absence; or

(b) A contracted hospital, rural health clinic, or rural provider is recruiting to fill an open position.

(3) For a substitute provider providing services under subsection (2)(a) of this section, a contracted hospital, rural health clinic, or rural provider may bill and receive payment for services at the contracted rate under its contract with the managed care organization for up to sixty days.

(4) To be eligible for reimbursement under this section for services provided on behalf of a contracted provider for greater than sixty days, a substitute provider must enroll in a medicaid managed care organization. Enrollment of a substitute provider in a medicaid managed care organization is effective on the later of:

(a) The date the substitute provider filed an enrollment application that was subsequently approved; or

(b) The date the substitute provider first began providing services at the hospital, rural health clinic, or rural provider.

(5) A substitute provider who enrolls with a medicaid managed care organization may not bill under subsection (4) of this section for any services billed to the medicaid managed care organization pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(6) Nothing in this section obligates a managed care organization to enroll any substitute provider who requests enrollment if they do not meet the organizations enrollment criteria.

(7) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Circumstances precluded enrollment" means that the provider has met all program requirements including state licensure during the thirty-day period before an application was submitted and no final adverse determination precluded enrollment. If a final adverse determination precluded enrollment during this thirty-day period, the contractor shall only establish an effective billing date the day after the date that the final adverse action was resolved, as long as it is not more than thirty days prior to the date on which the application was submitted.

(b) "Contracted provider" means a provider who is contracted with a medicaid managed care organization.

(c) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW.

(d) "Rural health clinic" means a federally designated rural health clinic.

(e) "Rural provider" means physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, osteopathic physicians and surgeons licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, podiatric physicians and surgeons licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, physician assistants licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, osteopathic physician assistants licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW, and advanced registered nurse practitioners licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, who are located in a rural county as defined in RCW 82.14.370.

(f) "Substitute provider" includes physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, osteopathic physicians and surgeons licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, podiatric physicians and surgeons licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW, physician assistants licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, osteopathic physician assistants licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW, and advanced registered nurse practitioners licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Section 3 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

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