

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2619

BY DELEGATES J. PACK AND ROHRBACH

[BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN RESOURCES]

[Introduced February 19, 2021; Referred to the
Committee on Health and Human Resources then
Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §33-4A-1, §33-4A-2, §33-4A-3, §33-4A-4, §33-4A-5, §33-4A-6, §33-
 2 4A-7, and §33-4A-8 of the Code of West Virginia of 1931, as amended, all relating to the
 3 All-Payer Claims Database, to reflect that the Health Care Authority is part of the
 4 organizational structure of the Department of Health and Human Resources and is no
 5 longer a separate governmental agency; and to more clearly and accurately delineate the
 6 roles of the entities responsible for the all-payer claims database.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4A. ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE.

§33-4A-1. Definitions.

1 (a) "All-payer claims database" or "APCD" means the program authorized by this article
 2 that collects, retains, uses, and discloses information concerning the claims and administrative
 3 expenses of health care payers.

4 (b) "Commissioner" means the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner.

5 (c) "Data" means the data elements from enrollment and eligibility files, specified types of
 6 claims, and reference files for data elements not maintained in formats consistent with national
 7 coding standards.

8 (d) ~~"Executive Director" means the executive director of the West Virginia Health Care~~
 9 ~~Authority~~

10 (e) "Health care payer" means any entity that pays or administers the payment of health
 11 insurance claims or medical claims under workers' compensation insurance to providers in this
 12 state, including workers' compensation insurers; accident and sickness insurers; nonprofit
 13 hospital service corporations, medical service corporations and dental service organizations;
 14 nonprofit health service corporations; prepaid limited health service organizations; health
 15 maintenance organizations; and government payers, including but not limited to Medicaid,
 16 Medicare and the Public Employees Insurance Agency; the term also includes any third-party
 17 administrator including any pharmacy benefit manager, that administers a fully-funded or self-

18 ~~funded~~ plan:

19 A "health insurance claim" does not include:

20 (1) Any claim paid under an individual or group policy providing coverage only for accident,
21 or disability income insurance or any combination thereof; coverage issued as a supplement to
22 liability insurance; liability insurance, including general liability insurance and automobile liability;
23 credit-only insurance; coverage for onsite medical clinics; other similar insurance coverage, which
24 may be specified by rule, under which benefits for medical care are secondary or incidental to
25 other insurance benefits; or

26 (2) Any of the following if provided under a separate policy, certificate, or contract of
27 insurance: Limited scope dental or vision benefits; benefits for long-term care, nursing home
28 care, home health care, community-based care, or any combination thereof; coverage for only a
29 specified disease or illness; or hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance.

30 "Health insurance claims" shall only include information from Medicare supplemental
31 policies if the same information is obtained with respect to Medicare.

32 ~~(f)~~ (e) "Personal identifiers" means information relating to an individual member or insured
33 that identifies, or can be used to identify, locate, or contact a particular individual member or
34 insured, including but not limited to the individual's name, street address, Social Security number,
35 email address and telephone number.

36 ~~(g)~~ (f) "Secretary" means the secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and
37 Human ~~Services~~ Resources.

38 ~~(h)~~ (g) "Third-party administrator" has the same meaning ascribed to it in §33-46-2 of this
39 code.

§33-4A-2. Establishment and development of an all-payer claims database.

1 (a) ~~The secretary commissioner and the executive director, collectively referred to herein~~
2 ~~as the "MOU parties", shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to develop an all-payer~~
3 ~~claims database program.~~

4 ~~(b) The memorandum of understanding shall, at a minimum:~~

5 ~~(1) Provide that the commissioner will shall have primary responsibility for the collection,~~
 6 ~~retention, and dissemination of the data in an APCD. The commissioner shall have primary~~
 7 ~~responsibility for enforcement of data collection. order to facilitate the efficient administration of~~
 8 ~~state oversight, the secretary will have primary responsibility for the retention of data supplied to~~
 9 ~~the state under its health care oversight function, and the executive director will have primary~~
 10 ~~responsibility for the dissemination of the data;~~

11 ~~(2) Delineate the MOU parties' roles, describe the process to develop legislative rules~~
 12 ~~required by this article, establish communication processes and a coordination plan, and address~~
 13 ~~vendor relationship management;~~

14 ~~(3) (b) Provide The secretary shall provide for the development of a plan for the financial~~
 15 ~~stability of the APCD, including provision for funding by the MOU parties' agencies; and~~

16 ~~(4) (c) Provide The secretary shall provide for the use of the hospital discharge uniform~~
 17 ~~billing data collected by the West Virginia Health Care Authority Department of Health and Human~~
 18 ~~Resources as a tool in the validation of APCD reports.~~

**§33-4A-3. Powers of the ~~commissioner, secretary and executive director~~; exemption from
 purchasing rules.**

1 (a) The MOU parties secretary may:

2 (1) Accept gifts, bequests, grants, or other funds dedicated to the furtherance of the goals
 3 of the APCD;

4 (2) Select a vendor to handle data collection and processing and such other tasks as
 5 deemed appropriate;

6 (3) Enter into agreements with other states to perform joint administrative operations,
 7 share information and assist in the development of multistate efforts to further the goals of this
 8 article: *Provided*, That any such agreements must include adequate protections with respect to
 9 the confidentiality of the information to be shared and comply with all state and federal laws and

10 regulations;

11 (4) Enter into memoranda of understanding with other governmental agencies to carry out
12 any of its functions, including contracts with other states to perform joint administrative functions;

13 (5) Attempt to ensure that the requirements with respect to the reporting of data be
14 standardized; ~~so as to minimize the expense to parties subject to similar requirements in other~~
15 ~~jurisdictions~~

16 (6) Enter into voluntary agreements to obtain data from payers not subject to mandatory
17 reporting under this article; and

18 (7) Exempt a payer or class of payers from the requirements of this article for cause.

19 (b) Contracts for professional services for the development and operation of the APCD
20 are not subject to the provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to the Purchasing Division
21 of the Department of Administration. The award of such contracts shall be subject to a competitive
22 process established by the ~~MOU parties~~ secretary.

23 (c) The ~~MOU parties~~ secretary shall make an annual report to the Governor, which shall
24 also be filed with the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, summarizing the activities of
25 the APCD in the preceding calendar year.

§33-4A-4. Data subject to this article.

1 (a) All health care payers shall submit data to the ~~commissioner~~ secretary, or an entity
2 designated by the ~~commissioner~~ secretary at such times and in a form specified in rule. Any health
3 care payer that the secretary or commissioner determines paid or administered the payment of
4 health insurance claims in this state for policies on fewer than 500 covered lives in the previous
5 calendar year is exempt from the requirements of this article.

6 (b) Data submitted in accordance with this article shall be considered confidential by law
7 and privileged, are exempt from disclosure pursuant to §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code, are not open
8 to public inspection, are not subject to subpoena, are not subject to discovery or admissible in
9 evidence in any criminal, private civil or administrative action, are not subject to production

10 pursuant to court order, and shall only be used and disclosed pursuant to law and legislative rules
11 promulgated pursuant to this article.

12 (c)(1) Data submitted to and retained by the APCD shall be available as a resource for the
13 ~~MOU parties~~ secretary and commissioner to ~~continuously~~ conduct public health analyses, conduct
14 program analyses, review health care utilization, expenditures, and performance in West Virginia,
15 conduct academic research, and to enhance the ability of consumers to make informed and cost-
16 effective health care decisions.

17 (2) Data submitted to and retained by the APCD may, in accordance with this article and
18 the legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article, also be available as a resource for
19 insurers, researchers, employers, providers, purchasers of health care, consumers, and state
20 agencies. Any such use shall be limited to public health, research, consumer reporting, and
21 program evaluation purposes.

22 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the APCD ~~shall~~ may not
23 disclose any data that contain personal identifiers. The ~~MOU parties~~ secretary, in accordance with
24 procedures and standards set forth in legislative rule, may approve access to ~~other~~ data elements
25 not prohibited from disclosure by the APCD, as well as synthetic or created unique identifiers, for
26 use by researchers, including government agencies, with established protocols for
27 safeguarding confidential or privileged information. ~~The MOU parties' use~~ Use of the data by the
28 secretary and commissioner shall not constitute a disclosure.

§33-4A-5. User fees; waiver.

1 Reasonable user fees may be set by the secretary in the manner established in legislative
2 rule, for the right to access and use the data available from the APCD. The ~~executive director~~
3 secretary may reduce or waive the fee if he or she determines that the user is unable to pay the
4 scheduled fees and that the user has a viable plan to use the data or information in research of
5 general value to the public health.

§33-4A-6. Enforcement; injunctive relief.

1 ~~In the event of~~ If there is any violation of this article or any rule adopted thereunder, the
2 commissioner, ~~secretary or executive director~~ or secretary may seek to enjoin a further violation
3 in the circuit court of Kanawha County. Injunctive relief ordered pursuant to this section may be
4 in addition to any other remedies and enforcement actions available to the secretary and
5 commissioner under this chapter.

§33-4A-7. Special revenue account created.

1 (a) There is hereby created a special revenue account in the State Treasury, designated
2 the West Virginia All-Payer Claims Database Fund, which shall be an interest-bearing account
3 and may be invested in the manner permitted by §12-6-1 *et seq.* of this code, with the interest
4 income a proper credit to the fund and which shall not revert to the General Revenue, unless
5 otherwise designated in law. The fund shall be overseen by the ~~commissioner~~, secretary and
6 ~~executive director~~, shall be administered by the commissioner, and shall be used to pay all proper
7 costs incurred in implementing the provisions of this article.

8 (b) The following funds shall be paid into this account:

- 9 (1) Penalties imposed on health care payers pursuant to this article and rules promulgated
10 hereunder;
- 11 (2) Funds received from the federal government;
- 12 (3) Appropriations from the Legislature; and
- 13 (4) All other payments, gifts, grants, bequests, or income from any source

§33-4A-8. Rule-making authority.

1 To effectuate the provisions of this article, the ~~MOU parties~~ secretary and commissioner
2 may propose joint rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et*
3 *seq.* of this code as necessary to implement this article. ~~No actions to collect data or assess fees~~
4 ~~pursuant to this article may be undertaken until rules promulgated hereunder are made effective.~~

5 Such rules may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 6 (a) Procedures for the collection, retention, use and disclosure of data from the APCD,

7 including procedures and safeguards to protect the privacy, integrity, confidentiality and
8 availability of any data;

9 (b) Penalties against health care payers for violation of rules governing the submission of
10 data, including a schedule of fines for failure to file data or to pay assessments;

11 (c) Fees payable by users of the data and the process for a waiver or reduction of user
12 fees. Any such fees shall be established at a level that, when considered together with other
13 available funding sources, is deemed necessary to sustain the operation of the APCD;

14 (d) A proposed time frame for the creation of the database;

15 (e) Criteria for determining whether data collected, beyond the listed personal identifiers,
16 is confidential clinical data, confidential financial data or privileged medical information, and
17 procedures to give affected providers and health care payers notice and opportunity to comment
18 in response to requests for information that may be considered confidential or privileged;

19 (f) Penalties, including fines and other administrative sanctions, that may be imposed by
20 the commissioner for a health care payer's failure to comply with requirements of this article and
21 rules adopted hereunder; and

22 (g) Establishment of advisory boards to provide advice to the ~~MOU parties~~ secretary with
23 respect to the various functions of the APCD.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to update the code to reflect that the Health Care Authority is now part of the organizational structure of the Department of Health and Human Resources and not a separate governmental agency, and to clearly and accurately delineate the roles of the DHHR and the West Virginia Insurance Commission with respect to the all-payer claims database.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.