

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 848

By: Adelson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; creating the Hospital Discount for Qualified Self-Pay Patients Act; providing short title; defining terms; requiring hospitals to establish a discount program for certain patients; providing for exemption; requiring certain information to be provided to specified persons; providing eligibility criteria for certain discounts; requiring development and implementation of discounts and establishment of certain methodologies; requiring annual report; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-723.1 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Hospital Discount for Qualified Self-Pay Patients Act".

B. As used in this act, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Hospital" shall have the same meaning as in Section 1-701 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

2. "Qualified self-pay patient" means a resident who has established a domicile in an Oklahoma county and has no public or private source of payment for medical services and would be expected to pay a hospital's billed charges. The term does not include:

- a. a patient presenting for services that are not covered by Medicare, Medicaid or workers' compensation in this state or services that are elective and not medically necessary, or

- b. a patient who fails to provide income and asset information to determine if the patient is eligible for a discount program.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-723.2 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. Each hospital in this state shall establish a discount program for hospital charges for qualified self-pay patients who have household incomes of up to four hundred percent (400%) of the federal poverty guidelines. This discount program shall not be required for patients who are eligible for or enrolled in private or public insurance plans providing hospital coverage, including indemnity plans.

2. A hospital shall provide a copy of the hospital's charge description master, segregated by type of service provided, to any person receiving services at the hospital.

B. While a hospital may set uniform prices for its services, products and fees, qualified self-pay patients shall be eligible for minimum discounts from the hospital so that the hospital charge after the discount shall not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the approved Medicare price.

C. Each hospital shall develop and implement the discounts and establish the methodologies developed for the following:

1. Identifying patients who may be eligible for a discount, notifying them of the availability of the discount program, and providing appropriate information, including application forms, for the discount;

2. Identifying public or private insurance or other payment mechanisms for which the patient might be eligible;

3. Determining the discount;

4. Notifying patients of their qualification either for a public source of payment or a discount under this program. All

billings for hospital charges and all collection letters and notices for services rendered by the hospital to qualified self-pay patients shall contain a statement of this policy;

5. Publishing on a continuing basis in publications reaching the public and posting prominently in various places in the hospital, including in the intake and processing offices and billing offices, a statement of this policy.

D. Hospitals shall report annually to the State Department of Health the number of patients who have requested discounts, received discounts, and the total discounts provided under this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2005.

50-1-530

CJ

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