



Maryland
Hospital Association

Hospital Commitment – Uniform Facility Fees Disclosure Recommended Standards

Overview

Over the last several years, hospitals and regulators have received an increasing number of patient complaints about hospital fees associated with hospital-based, outpatient clinic services. It is critical that we make patients aware of these fees prior to their appointment. This notification should be limited to hospital-based, outpatient clinic services that could be alternatively provided at a non-hospital location.

In response, MHA’s Council on Financial Policy and Council on Legislative and Regulatory Policy, with input from MHA’s Technical Work Group and Legislative Strategy Group, adopted the attached patient disclosure recommended standards for facility fees. Hospitals do not have to implement the exact format of the attached standards. However we are asking each hospital to adopt the uniform set of standards. Your hospital should determine how best to incorporate these recommended standards into your pre-appointment scheduling process, either via telephone, web-based registration, or if there are no other options, hard copy. The uniform standards call for giving patients the following information in an advance disclosure:

- That the patient will receive two charges: one from the hospital and one from the physician
- A range for the evaluation and management (E/M) component of the hospital charge
- That the same physician or same physician practice has a non-hospital-based location
- A statement to contact your health plan for an estimate of out-of-pocket expenses
- Contact information to request financial assistance from your hospital
- Contact information for the Maryland Insurance Administration and the Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) of the Office of the Attorney General.

The recommended standards have several objectives. Most important, they provide patients with an option to avoid facility fees when the same physician or physician practice has a non-hospital-based location, and, they provide patients with an expected range of facility fee charges. Other services like scans, MRIs, lab work, injections, etc. do not need to be included in the estimate as they cannot be known with certainty in advance, and, may also be billed separately in a non-hospital location. Hospitals should document that patients received the information in advance of their appointments.

Uniform Facility Fee Disclosure Recommended Standards Commitment

Hospitals recognize the need to disclose important information about outpatient facility fees to patients prior to their appointments. **Our hospital is committed to implementing these hospital facility fee disclosure recommended standards by July 1, 2020.**

Hospital (or health system if includes all hospitals): _____

CEO Signature: _____ Date: _____

CFO Signature: _____ Date: _____

On or before November 1, please email or fax a completed form to Brett McCone at bmccone@mhaonline.org or 410-379-8239.