
SENATE BILL 5828

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Cleveland, Rivers, Kuderer, and Nguyen

Read first time 02/05/19. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to the medicaid home health reimbursement rate
2 for medical assistance clients; adding a new section to chapter 74.09
3 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Beginning January 1, 2020, the home health reimbursement rate for
8 medical assistance clients must be at a rate not less than one
9 hundred percent of the medicare home health payment, and must provide
10 reimbursement for a social worker and telemedicine ordered by a
11 physician or authorized health care provider.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The health care authority shall facilitate
13 a stakeholder work group consisting of home health provider
14 associations, hospital associations, managed care organizations, the
15 department of social and health services, and the department of
16 health to work in a collaborative effort to redesign the medicaid
17 payment methodology for home health services. The health care
18 authority must submit a report with the final work group
19 recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees by November
20 30, 2019. A proposed timeline for implementation of the new

1 methodology must be included in the report. The new methodology must
2 consider reimbursement for: Telemedicine; social work for clients
3 with qualifying behavioral health needs; and a rural add-on for
4 clients in rural or underserved areas of the state. The work group
5 must consider quality metrics for home health providers serving
6 medical assistance clients which would include reducing hospital
7 readmissions. The work group must address the role home health plays
8 in caring for individuals with complex, physical, and behavioral
9 health needs who are able to receive care in their own home, but are
10 unable to discharge from hospital settings due to lack of access to
11 community resources; and how home health can partner with other
12 community resources such as social workers, community health care
13 workers, telemedicine providers, and telepsychiatry providers to
14 serve these individuals in the most cost-effective setting that also
15 meets the individual's needs and preferences.

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

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