

By: Harris

S.B. No. 334

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the regulation of health benefit plan issuers and dissemination of information to patients, physicians, and other providers.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1274, Insurance Code, Section 1274.002 is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1274.002. TRANSMISSION OF ENROLLEE ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT STATUS. (a) Each health benefit plan issuer shall, via smart card technology or other similar technology or upon the treating or participating provider's submission of the patient's name, relationship to the primary enrollee, and birth date, make available ~~[telephonically]~~ electronically~~[, or by an Internet website portal]~~ to each ~~[participating]~~ provider information ~~[maintained in the ordinary course of business and]~~ sufficient for the provider to determine at the time of the enrollee's visit information concerning:

- (1) the enrollee, including:
  - (A) the enrollee's identification number assigned by the health benefit plan issuer;
  - (B) the name of the enrollee and all covered dependents, if appropriate;
  - (C) the birth date of the enrollee and the birth dates of all covered dependents, if appropriate;

1 (D) the gender of the enrollee and the gender of  
2 each covered dependent, if appropriate; and

3 (E) the current enrollment and eligibility  
4 status of the enrollee under the health benefit plan;

5 (2) the enrollee's benefits, including:

6 (A) whether a specific type or category of  
7 service is a covered benefit; and

8 (B) excluded benefits or limitations, both group  
9 and individual; and

10 (3) the enrollee's financial information, including:

11 (A) copayment requirements, if any; and

12 (B) the unmet amount of the enrollee's deductible  
13 or enrollee financial responsibility.

14 (b) Information required to be made available under this  
15 section may be made available only to a participating provider who  
16 is authorized under state and federal law to receive personally  
17 identifiable information on an enrollee or dependent.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.