

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 287

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of electronic prescribing data transmission systems under the state Medicaid program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 531.02411, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02411. STREAMLINING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES.

(a) The commission shall make every effort using the commission's existing resources to reduce the paperwork and other administrative burdens placed on Medicaid recipients and providers and other participants in the Medicaid program and shall use technology and efficient business practices to decrease those burdens. In addition, the commission shall make every effort to improve the business practices associated with the administration of the Medicaid program by any method the commission determines is cost-effective, including:

(1) expanding the utilization of the electronic claims payment system;

(2) developing an Internet portal system for prior authorization requests;

(3) encouraging Medicaid providers to submit their program participation applications electronically;

(4) ensuring that the Medicaid provider application is easy to locate on the Internet so that providers may conveniently

1 apply to the program;

2 (5) working with federal partners to take advantage of
3 every opportunity to maximize additional federal funding for
4 technology in the Medicaid program; and

5 (6) encouraging the increased use of medical
6 technology by providers, including increasing their use of:

7 (A) electronic communications between patients
8 and their physicians or other health care providers;

9 (B) electronic prescribing tools that provide
10 up-to-date payer formulary information at the time a physician or
11 other health care practitioner writes a prescription and that
12 support the electronic transmission of a prescription;

13 (C) ambulatory computerized order entry systems
14 that facilitate physician and other health care practitioner orders
15 at the point of care for medications and laboratory and
16 radiological tests;

17 (D) inpatient computerized order entry systems
18 to reduce errors, improve health care quality, and lower costs in a
19 hospital setting;

20 (E) regional data-sharing to coordinate patient
21 care across a community for patients who are treated by multiple
22 providers; and

23 (F) electronic intensive care unit technology to
24 allow physicians to fully monitor hospital patients remotely.

25 (b) The commission shall develop and implement a plan
26 designed to encourage the increased use by Medicaid providers of
27 the medical technology described by Subsection (a)(6)(B). The plan

1 must include a goal of achieving by September 1, 2014, a specified
2 percentage increase in the use of electronic prescribing by
3 Medicaid providers. Not later than January 1, 2010, the commission
4 shall submit a report to the legislature describing the plan
5 developed by the commission in accordance with this subsection.
6 Not later than January 1, 2011, and January 1, 2013, the commission
7 shall submit a report to the legislature regarding the
8 implementation and results of the plan. This subsection expires
9 September 1, 2014.

10 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
11 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
12 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
13 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
14 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
15 waiver or authorization is granted.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.