

By: Smith

H.B. No. 3248

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the medical authorization required to release protected
3 health information in a health care liability claim.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 74.052(c), Civil Practice and Remedies
6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 (c) The medical authorization required by this section
8 shall be in the following form and shall be construed in accordance
9 with the "Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health
10 Information" (45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164).

11 AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR RELEASE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

12 Patient Name: _____ Patient Date [~~Place~~] of

13 Birth: _____

14 Patient Address: _____

15 _____ Street _____ City, State, ZIP

16 Patient Telephone: _____ Patient E-mail: _____

17 NOTICE TO PHYSICIAN OR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: THIS
18 AUTHORIZATION FORM HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE
19 PURSUANT TO SECTION 74.052, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE. YOU
20 ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE MEDICAL AND BILLING RECORDS AS
21 REQUESTED IN THIS AUTHORIZATION.

22 A. I, _____ (name of patient or authorized
23 representative), hereby authorize _____ (name of physician or
24 other health care provider to whom the notice of health care claim

1 is directed) to obtain and disclose (within the parameters set out
2 below) the protected health information and associated billing
3 records described below for the following specific purposes (check
4 all that apply):

5 To facilitate the investigation and evaluation of
6 the health care claim described in the accompanying Notice of
7 Health Care Claim.

8 Defense of any litigation arising out of the claim
9 made the basis of the accompanying Notice of Health Care Claim.

10 Other - Specify:_____

11 B. The health information to be obtained, used, or disclosed
12 extends to and includes the verbal as well as written and electronic
13 and is specifically described as follows:

14 1. The health information and billing records in the
15 custody of the physicians or health care providers who have
16 examined, evaluated, or treated _____ (patient) in connection
17 with the injuries alleged to have been sustained in connection with
18 the claim asserted in the accompanying Notice of Health Care Claim.

19 Names and current addresses of treating physicians or
20 health care providers:

21 1. _____

22 2. _____

23 3. _____

24 4. _____

25 5. _____

26 6. _____

27 7. _____

1 8. _____

2 This authorization extends to an additional physician or
3 health care provider that may in the future evaluate, examine, or
4 treat _____ (patient) for injuries alleged in connection with
5 the claim made the basis of the attached Notice of Health Care Claim
6 only if the claimant gives notice to the recipient of the attached
7 Notice of Health Care Claim of that additional physician or health
8 care provider;

9 2. The health information and billing records in the
10 custody of the following physicians or health care providers who
11 have examined, evaluated, or treated _____ (patient) during a
12 period commencing five years prior to the incident made the basis of
13 the accompanying Notice of Health Care Claim.

14 Names and current addresses of treating physicians or
15 health care providers, if applicable:

- 16 1. _____
- 17 2. _____
- 18 3. _____
- 19 4. _____
- 20 5. _____
- 21 6. _____
- 22 7. _____
- 23 8. _____

24 C. Exclusions

25 1. Providers excluded from authorization.

26 The following constitutes a list of physicians or health care
27 providers possessing health care information concerning _____

1 (patient) to whom this authorization does not apply because I
2 contend that such health care information is not relevant to the
3 damages being claimed or to the physical, mental, or emotional
4 condition of _____ (patient) arising out of the claim made the
5 basis of the accompanying Notice of Health Care Claim. List the
6 names of each physician or health care provider to whom this
7 authorization does not extend and the inclusive dates of
8 examination, evaluation, or treatment to be withheld from
9 disclosure, or state "none":

- 10 1. _____
- 11 2. _____
- 12 3. _____
- 13 4. _____
- 14 5. _____
- 15 6. _____
- 16 7. _____
- 17 8. _____

18 2. By initialing below, the patient or patient's
19 personal or legal representative excludes the following
20 information from this authorization:

- 21 _____ HIV/AIDS test results and/or treatment
- 22 _____ Drug/alcohol/substance abuse treatment
- 23 _____ Mental health records (mental health records
24 do not include psychotherapy notes)
- 25 _____ Genetic information (including genetic test
26 results)

27 D. The persons or class of persons to whom the patient's

1 health information and billing records will be disclosed or who
2 will make use of said information are:

3 1. Any and all physicians or health care providers
4 providing care or treatment to _____ (patient);

5 2. Any liability insurance entity providing liability
6 insurance coverage or defense to any physician or health care
7 provider to whom Notice of Health Care Claim has been given with
8 regard to the care and treatment of _____ (patient);

9 3. Any consulting or testifying experts employed by or
10 on behalf of _____ (name of physician or health care provider
11 to whom Notice of Health Care Claim has been given) with regard to
12 the matter set out in the Notice of Health Care Claim accompanying
13 this authorization;

14 4. Any attorneys (including secretarial, clerical,
15 experts, or paralegal staff) employed by or on behalf of _____
16 (name of physician or health care provider to whom Notice of Health
17 Care Claim has been given) with regard to the matter set out in the
18 Notice of Health Care Claim accompanying this authorization;

19 5. Any trier of the law or facts relating to any suit
20 filed seeking damages arising out of the medical care or treatment
21 of _____ (patient).

22 E. This authorization shall expire upon resolution of the
23 claim asserted or at the conclusion of any litigation instituted in
24 connection with the subject matter of the Notice of Health Care
25 Claim accompanying this authorization, whichever occurs sooner.

26 F. I understand that, without exception, I have the right to
27 revoke this authorization at any time by giving notice in writing to

1 the person or persons named in Section B above of my intent to
2 revoke this authorization. I understand that prior actions taken
3 in reliance on this authorization by a person that had permission to
4 access my protected health information will not be affected. I
5 further understand the consequence of any such revocation as set
6 out in Section 74.052, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

7 G. I understand that the signing of this authorization is
8 not a condition for continued treatment, payment, enrollment, or
9 eligibility for health plan benefits.

10 H. I understand that information used or disclosed pursuant
11 to this authorization may be subject to redisclosure by the
12 recipient and may no longer be protected by federal HIPAA privacy
13 regulations.

14 Name of Patient

15 _____

16 Signature of Patient/Personal or Legal Representative

17 _____

18 Description of Personal or Legal Representative's Authority

19 _____

20 Date

21 _____

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.