

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 1625

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a single Internet portal or equivalent electronic
3 system through which Medicaid providers may submit and receive
4 information.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 533.0055, Government Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (c), (d), (e), and
8 (f) to read as follows:

9 (b) The provider protection plan required under this
10 section must provide for:

11 (1) prompt payment and proper reimbursement of
12 providers by managed care organizations;

13 (2) prompt and accurate adjudication of claims
14 through:

15 (A) provider education on the proper submission
16 of clean claims and on appeals;

17 (B) acceptance of uniform forms, including HCFA
18 Forms 1500 and UB-92 and subsequent versions of those forms,
19 through an interoperable electronic portal or equivalent
20 electronic system; and

21 (C) the establishment of standards for claims
22 payments in accordance with a provider's contract;

23 (3) adequate and clearly defined provider network
24 standards that are specific to provider type, including physicians,

1 general acute care facilities, and other provider types defined in
2 the commission's network adequacy standards in effect on January 1,
3 2013, and that ensure choice among multiple providers to the
4 greatest extent possible;

5 (4) a prompt credentialing process for providers;

6 (5) uniform efficiency standards and requirements for
7 managed care organizations for the submission and tracking of
8 preauthorization requests for services provided under Medicaid;

9 (6) establishment and maintenance of an interoperable
10 [~~electronic process, including the use of an~~] Internet portal or
11 equivalent electronic system with real-time capabilities [7]
12 through which providers in any managed care organization's provider
13 network may:

14 (A) submit electronic claims, prior
15 authorization requests, claims appeals and reconsiderations,
16 clinical data, and other documentation that the managed care
17 organization requests for prior authorization and claims
18 processing; and

19 (B) obtain electronic remittance advice,
20 explanation of benefits statements, and other standardized
21 reports;

22 (7) the measurement of the rates of retention by
23 managed care organizations of significant traditional providers;

24 (8) the creation of a work group to review and make
25 recommendations to the commission concerning any requirement under
26 this subsection for which immediate implementation is not feasible
27 at the time the plan is otherwise implemented, including the

1 required process for submission and acceptance of attachments for
2 claims processing and prior authorization requests through the
3 Internet portal or equivalent electronic system required by [~~an~~
4 ~~electronic process under~~] Subdivision (6) and, for any requirement
5 that is not implemented immediately, recommendations regarding the
6 expected:

7 (A) fiscal impact of implementing the
8 requirement; and

9 (B) timeline for implementation of the
10 requirement; and

11 (9) any other provision that the commission determines
12 will ensure efficiency or reduce administrative burdens on
13 providers participating in a Medicaid managed care model or
14 arrangement.

15 (c) The commission, using existing resources, shall
16 consolidate each electronic or Internet portal operated or
17 maintained by the commission for the commission's use, including
18 through a contract with a separate entity, that is used to receive
19 and deliver requests and other information from and to Medicaid
20 providers, including nursing facility providers participating in
21 the STAR+PLUS Medicaid managed care program, into the single
22 Internet portal or equivalent electronic system required by
23 Subsection (b)(6). The commission shall:

24 (1) ensure the single Internet portal or equivalent
25 electronic system meets the requirements of a portal described by
26 Sections 531.02411, 533.00251, 533.002553, and 533.0071; and

27 (2) implement a method that allows:

1 (A) each managed care organization to connect
2 with the single Internet portal or equivalent electronic system;
3 and

4 (B) a provider to access the single Internet
5 portal or equivalent electronic system both directly and through a
6 managed care organization's Internet website.

7 (d) The commission may contract with a private or nonprofit
8 entity to develop, operate, and maintain the single Internet portal
9 or equivalent electronic system required by Subsection (b)(6). The
10 entity may not be affiliated with any specific managed care plan.

11 (e) The executive commissioner by rule shall require each
12 managed care organization to allow providers in the organization's
13 provider network to use the single Internet portal or equivalent
14 electronic system required by Subsection (b)(6).

15 (f) Notwithstanding any other law, a provider in a managed
16 care organization's provider network may continue to use a provider
17 portal made available by the managed care organization that is
18 interoperable with the single Internet portal or equivalent
19 electronic system, as applicable, required by Subsection (b)(6)
20 instead of accessing the single Internet portal or equivalent
21 electronic system directly.

22 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2023, the Health and
23 Human Services Commission, or an entity with which the commission
24 contracts, shall develop and implement the single Internet portal
25 or equivalent electronic system required by Section 533.0055,
26 Government Code, as amended by this Act.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.