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DELAWARE STATE SENATE
148th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 238

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DELAWARE HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend Chapter 103, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by designating §§ 10301 through 10308 of Title 16
2 as part of a new Subchapter I by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as
3 follows:

4 Chapter 103. Delaware Health Information Network.

5 Subchapter I. Purpose, Power and Duties, and other Governing Provisions of the Delaware Health Information
6 Network.

7 Section 2. Amend § 10301, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
8 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

9 § 10301. Purpose.

10 (a) The purpose of this ~~subchapter~~ chapter is to create a public instrumentality of this State known as the Delaware
11 Health Information Network (“DHIN”) which is a not-for-profit body both politic and corporate, which shall have the
12 rights, obligations, ~~privileges~~ privileges, and purpose to promote the design, implementation, ~~operation~~ operation, and
13 maintenance of facilities for public and private use of health care information in the State. The DHIN shall be the State’s
14 sanctioned provider of health information exchange services.

15 Section 3. Amend § 10303, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
16 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

17 § 10303. Powers and duties.

18 (a) In furtherance of the purposes of this ~~subchapter~~ chapter, the DHIN shall have the following powers and duties:

19 (18) ~~The DHIN shall make~~ Make annual reports to the Governor and members of the General Assembly
20 setting forth in detail its operations and transactions, which shall include annual audits of the books and accounts of the

21 DHIN made by a firm of independent certified public accountants mutually agreed to by the Auditor of Accounts and
22 the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

23 (19) Develop, maintain, and administer the Delaware Health Care Claims Database under subchapter II of this
24 chapter; and

25 ~~(19)~~ (20) Perform any and all other activities in furtherance of the above this section.

26 Section 4. Amend § 10306, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
27 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

28 § 10306. Regulations; resolution of disputes.

29 (a) The DHIN ~~is hereby authorized to~~ may promulgate rules and regulations under ~~and pursuant to~~ subchapter II of
30 Chapter 101 of Title 29 to carry out the objective of this ~~subchapter~~ chapter. All prior regulations and rules promulgated by
31 the Delaware Health Care Commission in regards to the DHIN shall remain in full force and effect until amended or
32 repealed by the DHIN.

33 (b) To resolve disputes under this ~~subchapter~~ chapter, or the rules and regulations promulgated ~~herein~~ under this
34 chapter, among participants, ~~subscribers~~ subscribers, or the public, the DHIN ~~is hereby authorized to~~ may hear and
35 determine case decisions under ~~and pursuant to~~ subchapter III of Chapter 101 of Title 29.

36 Section 5. Amend Chapter 103, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
37 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

38 Subchapter II. The Delaware Health Care Claims Database.

39 § 10311. The Delaware Health Care Claims Database—findings; purpose; creation.

40 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

41 (1) The establishment of effective health care data analysis and reporting initiatives is essential to achieving
42 the “Triple Aim” of the State’s ongoing health care innovation efforts: improved health, health care quality and
43 experience, and affordability for all Delawareans.

44 (2) The ongoing work of the Delaware Center for Health Innovation to transform the State’s health care
45 system from a fee-for-service system to a value-based system that rewards health care providers for quality and
46 efficiency of care is a worthy effort, and, to that end, the General Assembly supports the establishment of a health care
47 claims database that would assist in the State’s efforts to achieve the Triple Aim.

48 (3) Claims data is an important component of population health research and analysis, and that appropriate
49 access to claims data can facilitate the development of value-based health care purchasing and the study of the

50 prevalence of illness or injury across the broader population of Delaware and in particular communities or
51 neighborhoods.

52 (4) Providers and other health care entities accepting financial risk for managing the health care needs of a
53 population, including the State of Delaware as a self-insured employer, should have access to claims data as necessary
54 to effectively manage that risk.

55 (b) The purpose of this subchapter is to create a centralized health care claims database to enable the State to more
56 effectively understand utilization across the continuum of health care in Delaware and achieve the Triple Aim.

57 (c) The DHIN, assisted by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Delaware Health Care
58 Commission as necessary, shall administer a centralized health care claims database, known as the Delaware Health Care
59 Claims Database.

60 (d) The Delaware Health Care Claims Database is created within the DHIN to facilitate data-driven, evidence-
61 based improvements in access, quality, and cost of health care and to promote and improve the public health through
62 increased transparency of accurate health care claims data and information. The DHIN shall collect and maintain claims
63 data under this subchapter.

64 § 10312. Definitions.

65 For purposes of this chapter, unless amended, supplemented, or otherwise modified by regulations adopted under
66 this chapter:

67 (1) “Claims data” includes required claims data and any additional health care claims information that a
68 voluntary reporting entity elects, through entry into an appropriate data submission and use agreement under this
69 subchapter, to submit to the Delaware Health Care Claims Database.

70 (2) “Health care services” means as defined in § 6403 of Title 18.

71 (3) “Health insurer” means as defined in § 4004(b) of Title 18.

72 (4) “Provider” means a hospital or any health care practitioner licensed, certified, or authorized under State
73 law to provide health care services and includes hospitals and health care practitioners participating in group
74 arrangements, including accountable care organizations, in which the hospital or health care practitioners agree to
75 assume responsibility for the quality and cost of health care for a designed group of beneficiaries.

76 (5) “Pricing information” includes the pre-adjudicated price charged by a provider or facility to a reporting
77 entity for health care services, the amount paid by a patient or insured party, including co-pays and deductibles, and the
78 post-adjudicated price paid by a reporting entity to a provider for health care services.

79 (6) “Required claims data” includes the basic claims information that a mandatory reporting entity is required
80 to submit to the Delaware Health Care Claims Database by the reporting date, including all of the following:

- 81 a. Basic demographic information, including the patient’s gender, age, and geographic area of residency.
- 82 b. Basic information relating to an individual episode of care, including the date and time of the patient’s
83 admission and discharge; the identity of the health care services provider; and the location and type of facility,
84 such as a hospital, office, or clinic, where the service was provided.
- 85 c. Information describing the nature of health care services provided to the patient in connection with the
86 encounter, visit, or service, including diagnosis codes.
- 87 d. Health insurance product type, such as HMO or PPO.
- 88 e. Pricing information.

89 (7) “Reporting date” means a calendar deadline, to be scheduled on a regularly recurring basis, by which
90 required claims data must be submitted by a mandatory reporting entity to the Delaware Health Care Claims Database.

91 (8) “Mandatory reporting entity” means all of the following entities, except as prohibited under federal law:

- 92 a. The State Employee Benefits Committee and the Office of Management and Budget, under each
93 entity’s respective statutory authority to administer the State Group Health Insurance Program in Chapter 96 of
94 Title 29, and any health insurer, third party administrator, or other entity that receives or collects charges,
95 contributions, or premiums for, or adjusts or settles health claims for, any State employee, or their spouses or
96 dependents, participating in the State Group Health Insurance Program.
- 97 b. The Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance, with respect to services provided under programs
98 administered under Titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act.
- 99 c. Any health insurer or other entity that is certified as a qualified health plan on the Delaware Health
100 Insurance Marketplace for plan year 2017 or any subsequent plan year.
- 101 d. Any federal health insurance plan providing health care services to a resident of this State, including
102 Medicare and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

103 (9) “Third party administrator” means as defined in § 102 of Title 18.

104 (10) “Voluntary reporting entity” includes, except as prohibited under applicable federal law, any of the
105 following entities, unless such entity is a mandatory reporting entity:

- 106 a. Any health insurer.
- 107 b. Any third party administrator.

108 c. Any entity, which is not a health insurer or third party administrator, when such entity receives or
109 collects charges, contributions, or premiums for, or adjusts or settles health care claims for, residents of this State.

110 § 10313. Submission of required claims data by mandatory reporting entities; submission of claims data by
111 voluntary reporting entities.

112 (a) Requirements for submission of required claims data by a mandatory reporting entity.

113 (1) A mandatory reporting entity shall submit required claims data to the Delaware Health Care Claims
114 Database by the reporting date.

115 (2) The DHIN, subject to the provisions of this subchapter and regulations promulgated under this subchapter,
116 shall collect the required claims data from mandatory reporting entities by the reporting date.

117 (3) The DHIN shall, under § 10306 of this title, promulgate a template form for a data submission and use
118 agreement for the submission of required claims data by a mandatory reporting entity.

119 (4) The DHIN and each mandatory reporting entity shall execute a mutually acceptable data submission and
120 use agreement. Such agreement shall include procedures for submission, collection, aggregation, and distribution of
121 claims data and shall provide for, at a minimum, all of the following:

122 a. The protection of patient privacy and data security under provisions of this chapter and state and
123 federal privacy laws, including the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; Titles XIX and
124 XXI of the Social Security Act; and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health
125 (HITECH) Act, and all other applicable state and federal laws relating to the privacy and security of protected
126 health information.

127 b. The identification of any claims data, in addition to required claims data, that the mandatory reporting
128 entity elects to submit to the Delaware Health Care Claims Database.

129 c. A detailed summary of how claims data submitted by the mandatory reporting entity may be used for
130 geographic, demographic, economic, and peer group comparisons.

131 d. A representation and warranty that the DHIN shall, abide to the fullest extent possible, by nationally
132 recognized data collection standards and methods, including the standards promulgated by the APCD Council or
133 successor organization, to establish and maintain the database in a cost-effective manner and to facilitate
134 uniformity among various health care claims databases of other states and specification of data fields to be
135 included in the submitted claims, consistent with such national standards, allowing for exemptions when
136 submitting entities do not collect the specified data or pay on a per-claim basis.

137 (5) Exclusions from required claims data reporting requirement. The required claims data reporting
138 requirements under this subchapter, and any rules and regulations promulgated under this chapter, do not apply to
139 required claims data created for any employee welfare benefit plan or other employee health plan that is regulated by
140 the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 88 Stat. 829, as amended, 29 U. S. C. §1001 et seq.,
141 unless otherwise permitted by federal law or regulation.

142 (b) Submission of claims data by a voluntary reporting entity.

143 (1) The DHIN shall collect claims data from voluntary reporting entities under the terms and conditions of the
144 applicable data submission and use agreement.

145 (2) The DHIN may promulgate regulations to clarify the types of claims data that may be submitted by a
146 voluntary reporting entity.

147 (3) The DHIN and any voluntary reporting entity that elects to submit claims data to the Delaware Health
148 Care Claims Database shall execute a mutually acceptable data submission and use agreement. The DHIN shall publish
149 a template form data submission and use agreement that includes the required data submission and use agreement
150 provisions under paragraph (a)(4) of this Section.

151 (c) Unless modified or supplemented by regulations promulgated under this chapter, in instances where more than
152 one entity is involved in the administration of a policy, a health insurer shall be responsible for submitting the claims data
153 on policies that it has written, and the third party administrator shall be responsible for submitting claims data on self-
154 insured plans that it administers.

155 § 10314. External and public reporting of claims data.

156 (a) The DHIN shall provide Delaware health care payers, providers, and purchasers with access to the Delaware
157 Health Care Claims Database for the purpose of facilitating the design and evaluation of alternative delivery and payment
158 models, including population health research and provider risk-sharing arrangements.

159 (1) Claims data provided to the Delaware Health Care Claims Database shall only be provided to a requesting
160 party when a majority of the DHIN Board of Directors, or of a subcommittee established under the DHIN's bylaws for
161 purposes of administering the Health Care Claims Database, determines that the claims data should be provided to the
162 requesting party to facilitate the purposes of this subchapter.

163 a. The determination under paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall be reduced to writing and provided to the
164 requesting party.

165 b. The determination under paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall be final and not subject to appeal, and
166 there is no private right of action to a requesting party against the DHIN or any other party to enforce the
167 requirements of this section.

168 (2) The DHIN shall, in consultation with the Delaware Health Care Commission, promulgate rules and
169 regulations regarding the appropriate form and content of an application to receive claims data, providing examples of
170 requests for claims data that will generally be deemed consistent with the purposes of this subchapter.

171 (b) Claims data provided to a requesting party under this section shall be provided under the DHIN's existing
172 confidentiality and data security protocols and in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws relating to the
173 privacy and security of protected health information, including compliance, to the fullest extent practicable consistent with
174 the purposes under this subchapter, with guidance found in Statement 6 of the Department of Justice and Federal Trade
175 Commission Enforcement Policy regarding the exchange of price and cost information. Individually identifiable patient
176 health information shall be maintained by providers and purchasers in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws
177 relating to the confidentiality and security of protected health information and any additional privacy and security
178 requirements set forth in regulations promulgated under this chapter.

179 (c) The Office of Management and Budget, State Employee Benefits Committee, Division of Public Health, and
180 Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance shall have access to all claims data reported by the Delaware Health Care
181 Claims Database under this subchapter at no cost for the purposes of public health improvement research and activities.
182 These entities are authorized to enter into appropriate agreements with the DHIN to allow the Delaware Health Care Claims
183 Database to perform data warehousing and analytics functions that have been performed pursuant to the existing statutory
184 authority of the Office of Management and Budget, the State Employee Benefits Committee, or the Department of Health
185 and Social Services.

186 (d) The DHIN may promulgate regulations to make available to the public certain non-individually identifiable
187 data extracts and analyses, as the DHIN determines is consistent with, and necessary to, achieve the goals and policies of
188 this subchapter. Prior to the release of such data extracts and analyses, the same processes identified in subsection (e) of this
189 section shall be completed.

190 (e) The DHIN shall promulgate regulations to notify a mandatory reporting entity or voluntary reporting entity
191 when claims data submitted by the mandatory reporting entity or voluntary reporting entity may be released for a purpose
192 permitted under this subchapter and provide the mandatory reporting entity or voluntary reporting entity with an
193 opportunity to comment on the data release request prior to its release. Any comments received from a mandatory reporting
194 entity or voluntary reporting entity during the comment period shall be reviewed, considered, and responded to by DHIN

195 prior to the data release. If a party requesting the release of data is identified by a mandatory reporting entity or voluntary
196 reporting entity as a potential competitor of the reporting entity, the DHIN shall limit disclosure of any pricing information
197 that includes post-adjudicated claims data, to the fullest extent practicable and consistent with the purposes of this
198 subchapter, to a summary format that allows for analysis without revealing contracted pricing information.

199 (f) The DHIN shall promulgate regulations to ensure confidentiality, privacy, and security protections of health
200 care data and all other information collected, stored, or released by DHIN, subject to all applicable state and federal health
201 care privacy, confidentiality, and data security laws.

202 § 10315. Funding of Delaware Health Care Claims Database.

203 (a) The DHIN may not require any mandatory reporting entity, voluntary reporting entity, or provider to pay any
204 cost or fee to submit or verify the accuracy of claims data or otherwise to enable the operation of the Delaware Health Care
205 Claims Database with respect to required claims data submissions.

206 (b) The DHIN may enter contracts under § 10303(11) of this title with individuals and entities who voluntarily
207 subscribe to access the database.

208 (c) The DHIN, with the assistance of the Department of Health and Social Services, shall develop short-term and
209 long-term funding strategies for the creation and operation of the Delaware Health Care Claims Database that may include
210 public and private grant funding, subscriptions for access to data reports, access fees, and revenue for specific data projects,
211 subject to the limitations of this section.

212 Section 6. Effective date. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

213 Section 7. Transitional provision. A mandatory reporting entity may not be required to submit claims data to the
214 Delaware Health Care Claims Database until at least 180 days after the DHIN promulgates final regulations setting forth
215 the specific format and other requirements for claims data submission, including the form, medium, and content of the
216 required data elements.

217 Section 8. Severability. If any provision of this Act, or the application of this Act to any person, thing, or
218 circumstances is determined by a Court to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions or application of this
219 Act that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
220 declared to be severable.

SYNOPSIS

This Act establishes a Delaware Health Care Claims Database to be administered and operated within the existing framework of the Delaware Health Information Network. Sixteen states have enacted legislation to create health care claims databases which are generally referred to as an “All Payer Claims Database” or a “Multi Payer Claims Database”.

In short, this Act will help Delaware answer the following questions:

- (1) How much does Delaware spend on health care?
- (2) How much does a service cost at a specific facility?
- (3) How have health care prices changed over time?
- (4) Are Delaware's efforts to establish value-based alternatives to the traditional "fee for service" health care system effective?

The Delaware Health Care Claims Database will help advance the ongoing work to transform the State's health care system from a fee-for-service system to a value-based system that rewards health care providers for quality and efficiency of care. To complete that transformation, health care providers and other health care entities accepting financial risk for a population must have an appropriate level of access to health care claims data—particularly data that provides some transparency into health care pricing. Centralized and standardized access to claims data is also critical to maximizing population health initiatives, including the study of occurrences of injury or illness across the continuum of care in Delaware or in specific neighborhoods. This Act sets forth the basic structure and parameters of the Health Care Claims Database, subject to further guidance to be set forth in rules and regulations to be promulgated by the DHIN, in continued consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, the Health Care Commission, and stakeholders in the health care community.

Specific Requirements for Claims Data Reporting

This Act requires certain types of claims data defined as "required claims data" to be reported by the entities specified as "mandatory reporting entities" in the Act. The Act only mandates reporting of claims data for the Medicaid Program, the State Group Health Insurance Program, and any qualified health plan in the Delaware Health Insurance Marketplace for plan year 2017 and any subsequent plan year. This Act also authorizes health insurers and providers who are not required to participate in the Health Care Claims Database to voluntarily report "claims data" pursuant to appropriate data submission and use agreements between the voluntary reporting entity and the DHIN. In both mandatory and voluntary claims data reporting, the Delaware Health Care Claims Database will maintain the privacy and confidentiality of individually identifiable health information in accordance with all federal and state privacy and security laws, including compliance with guidance found in Statement 6 of the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission Enforcement Policy regarding the exchange of price and cost information, and with appropriate limits on the disclosure of potentially proprietary contracted unit price information. In order to comply with a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, the mandatory reporting requirements of this Act do not apply to self-insured commercial health plans that are regulated pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The Delaware Health Care Claims Database will be administered and operated by the DHIN Board of Directors, whose membership consists of a broad coalition of health care stakeholder representatives, including representatives of hospitals, physicians, providers, insurers, the business community, and government officials. This Act authorizes the DHIN Board, or a subcommittee established by the DHIN Board to administer the APCD, to review a request for claims data to determine if the requesting party or entity should have access to the requested claims data for a legitimate purpose in accordance with the goals of the statute. The determination by the DHIN Board shall be made in accordance with its bylaws, including those pertaining to conflict of interest recusal, and is not subject to appeal or to any other private right of action. This Act is revenue-neutral; it will be funded with grant money and other independent funding sources to be identified by the DHIN, in accordance with the DHIN's existing statutory authority.

Author: Senator Hall-Long