



February 26, 2016

Department of Insurance  
RE: Position Statement Proposed Balance Billing Legislation

To Whom It May Concern:

The Pennsylvania Ambulatory Surgery Association, PASA, and its members are committed to providing high-quality care and exceptional patient experiences in a low cost environment. We commend the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance for putting forth a proposal that seeks to prevent a patient from being billed unexpectedly (“Balanced Billing Legislation”) for services delivered by a health care provider who is not contracted with (i.e. out-of-network) that patient’s insurance carrier. The aims of this proposal are positive as more and more Americans are facing higher health care costs. The impact of out-of-network services, high deductible plans and coinsurance can have a dramatic financial impact on individuals.

PASA is committed to ensuring transparency in health care and providing patients with access to information they need to make good decisions as a health care consumer.

PASA encourages its membership to contact patients prior to service to discuss patient financial responsibility, to make financial arrangements as needed, and to ensure timely and quality care. Yet, we believe the proposed Balanced Billing Legislation will have unintended side effects that must be more fully understood. For example, the proposed legislation has the potential to increase dramatically the administrative burden and cost of providing health care in surgery centers. PASA also believes the proposed legislation may adversely impact the timely provision of care, which can ultimately impact the health of patients.

We look forward to working collaboratively with insurers, other health care providers and patients to develop processes that improve transparency, consumer interaction about financial matters and efficiency of care. We look forward to being engaged in the discussions with elected leaders to sort through the options that will best serve both the patients who receive care and the providers of that care.

Respectfully,

Gwendolyn Baker, President  
John Gleason, President Elect

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