

## CHAPTER 190

**AN ACT** concerning the Independent Health Care Appeals Program and supplementing P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et al.) and Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.26:2S-14.1 General hospital to provide information concerning the Independent Health Care Appeals Program.

1. A general hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall be required, as prescribed by regulation of the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, to:

(1) post, in a conspicuous place in each of its waiting rooms for members of the general public, a notice, as prescribed pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2011, c.190 (C.26:2S-14.2), which provides information about the operation of, and how to apply for, the Independent Health Care Appeals Program established pursuant to section 11 of P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-11); and

(2) ensure that appropriate hospital staff, including direct patient care providers, staff that are concerned with billing for hospital services or provide financial counseling to patients, and staff otherwise engaged in providing patient advocacy or patient relations services, are made aware of the program and are able to provide information to patients and their family members, or other persons on the patient's behalf, about how to contact the program.

C.45:9-22.26 Licensed physician to provide information concerning the Independent Health Care Appeals Program.

2. A licensed physician shall be required, as prescribed by regulation of the State Board of Medical Examiners, to post, in a conspicuous place in the patients' waiting room within the physician's medical office, a notice, as prescribed pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2011, c.190 (C.26:2S-14.2), which provides information about the operation of the Independent Health Care Appeals Program, established pursuant to section 11 of P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-11), and how to apply for the program.

C.26:2S-14.2 Size, content, format of notice.

3. The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the State Board of Medical Examiners, shall prescribe the size, content, and format of the notice about the Independent Health Care Appeals Program to be posted in general hospitals pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2011, c.190 (C.26:2S-14.1) and in physicians' medical offices pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2011, c.190 (C.45:9-22.26), and shall make the notice available to general hospitals and physicians, and to members of the general public, by posting it on the Internet website of the Department of Banking and Insurance.

C.26:2S-14.3 Rules, regulations.

4. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and the State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) and in consultation with each other and the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

5. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment, but the Commissioners of Health and Senior Services and Banking and Insurance and the State Board of Medical

Examiners may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of the act.

Approved January 17, 2012.