**Idaho Academy of Family Physicians**

**2020 Legislative Report**

**Week 7, February 17 – 21**

**New version of “Idaho Patient Act” moves to House floor this week.**

More bills keep coming as the legislature begins to hit its stride. As of this writing there have now been 410 pieces of legislation introduced.   In theory, the introduction of new bills should begin to slow as self-imposed transmittal deadlines loom.

Thursday this week a new amended version of the “Idaho Patient Act” passed out of committee after over 5 hours of sometimes contentious hearings.  This bill ([**H515**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0515/)) is a new version of ([H425](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0425/)) championed by Idaho Falls businessman Frank Vandersloot.  The proposal is billed as a medical debt collection repair bill but also makes changes in patient billing requirements by medical providers.  It would institute new timelines for billing, require transparency regarding the services being billed to patients, implement deadlines for when providers can send a bill to collections and caps the amount attorneys can receive in supplemental attorney’s fees in medical debt-collection lawsuits.  It is now to be debated on the House floor sometime early this week.  It has not gone through the Senate.

**A peek ahead:  Graduate Medical Education Budget in Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC).**

The JFAC committee has begun to set budgets for the year after weeks of hearings on budget requests.  The Graduate Medical Education Programs budgets are slated to be set this week on Feb 26. The Governor’s budget request for these programs aligned closely to the request from each program – a total of $22.2 million for Health Education programs.   That request takes into account growth for year three of the 10-year plan for expansion of the GME programs and includes an additional 25 new residents.

**New Legislation Introduced this week:**

[**H500**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0500/)**: Fairness in Women’s Sports**by Rep Earhart

This bill was introduced a few weeks ago, but I am only now adding it to the IAFP tracking list because it could involve physician involvement if implemented.  The bill forbids transgender girls or women from competing in school sports, and allows any female school sports player’s gender to be challenged, requiring her to undergo both physical and chromosomal exams to prove her gender.

*Status:  Passed out of House State Affairs Committee on Feb 19 on a party line vote.  Now before the whole house for action.*

[**H531**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0531/)**:  Telehealth Services**, by Rep. VanderWoude

Adds language to the telehealth act to clarify the use of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) can be used utilizing telehealth services.  MAT is a combination of behavioral health and medication treatment for treating addiction.

*Status:  Introduced on Feb 20 in House Health and Welfare, awaiting full committee hearing.*

[**H533**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0533/)**:  Medicaid Expansion, County Share,** by Rep. Raybould

This is a complicated bill putting in place a mechanism to wean county indigent funds and catastrophic health care funding out of counties purview as implementation of Medicaid expansion theoretically reduces the costs of those programs.

*Status:  Introduced Feb 21 in House Health and Welfare Committee, awaiting full committee discussion.*

[**H515**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0515/)**:  Idaho Patient Act**, by Rep Monks

(formerly H425) This proposal is billed as a medical debt collection repair bill but also makes changes in patient billing requirements by medical providers.  It would institute new timelines for billing, require transparency regarding the services being billed to patients, implement deadlines for when providers can send a bill to collections and caps the amount attorneys can receive in supplemental attorney’s fees in medical debt-collection lawsuits.

*Status:  Passed out of House Business Committee on Feb 21, awaiting action by full House.*

**Status of Previous Legislation**

[**H506**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0506/)**: No Surprises Act Balanced Billing** by Rep. Blanksma

(formerly H341, formerly H387). This bill prohibits “surprise” medical billing when a patient receives care from an in-network hospital facility and is unknowingly charged. This bill also allows out-of-network providers to be reimbursed at the same rate by contracted providers.

According to the sponsor, this legislation requires insurance companies to treat providers who are not contracted as if they were contracted by paying them at the higher contracted rates and providing the member in-network benefits.  The provider, in turn, must accept these payments as their total payment, and not bill the patient for any balances.  This bill may be a problem for primary care providers because subspecialists may refuse to take referrals or provider consults when they are out of network.

*Status:**NO ACTION THIS WEEK.  Introduced Feb 13 in House Ways and Means Committee, awaiting House Committee action, likely in Health and Welfare.*

[**H507**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0507/)**:  Public Moneys, Abortion Providers** by Reps. Zollinger and Zito

Prohibits transfer of any public money to any individual or organization that is a provider of abortion services.

*Status: NO ACTION THIS WEEK.  Introduced Feb. 13 in House State Affairs Committee, awaiting full committee hearing.*

[**H497**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0497/)**: Yellow DOT program** by Rep. Nilsson Troy

Creates a Yellow DOT system for Idaho.  Yellow DOT is a program in which those with medical issues place a folder of documents in their glove box of their car so that in the instances of an emergency situation and if the person is incapacitated first responders have the information available to them.  A sticker is placed in rear window of car indicating such information.

*Status:  Passed out of Health and Welfare Committee on Feb 21, now to full House for action.*

[**H499**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0499/)**:  Medicaid Reimbursement Parents as Teachers** by Rep. Blanksma

Instructs Dept of Health and Welfare to seek Federal approval for increased reimbursement rates for home visits for Medicaid children. Stated goal is to provide services for families, prenatal through age five, in the home setting by a qualified provider.

*Status:  NO ACTION THIS WEEK  Introduced Feb 12 in House Health and Welfare, awaiting committee hearing.*

[**S1305**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/S1305/)**:  Psychologists, prescription authority** by Idaho Psychological Association

Adds Family Medicine Physician to the list of approved supervisors for prescribing authority for psychology students.  To address the lack of supervisors available to prescribing psychology students.

*Status:  Passed full Senate 34-0 on Feb 18, now awaiting action in House Health and Welfare Committee.*

[**S1308**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/S1308/)**:  Tobacco products, age** by Dept of Health and Welfare

Aligns Idaho law with recent Federal law change making age to purchase tobacco products 21 years.

*Status:  NO ACTION THIS WEEK  Introduced on Feb 10 in Senate Health and Welfare, awaiting full committee action.*

[**S1331**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/S1331/)**:  Chiropractors prescriptions**, by Idaho Assn of Chiropractic Physicians

Allows chiropractors with prescribing authority to obtain prescriptions from Idaho compounding facilities.

*Status:  Passed out of Senate Health and Welfare on Feb 18, awaiting full Senate action.*

[**H392**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0392/)**:  Health Care Providers Immunity** by Idaho Medical Association

Expands the limited liability provisions of physicians who volunteer at free medical clinics or community-oriented heath events to other medical professionals and students.

*Status:  Passed out of Senate Health and Welfare on Feb 19, now to full senate for action.  Has already passed the House 69-0 on Feb 13.*

[**H391**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0391/)**: Youth Athletes and Chiropractors** by Rep. Zollinger

Adds licensed practicing chiropractor to list of medical professionals with authority to evaluate a student athlete concussion victim for return to activity.

*Status: NO ACTION THIS WEEK.  Introduced in House Health and welfare committee on Feb 3, awaiting full hearing.*

[**H425**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0425/)**:  Medical Debt Collections** by Rep. Monks

Please see **H 515** above

[**H436**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0436/)**: Health Care Directive Registry** by Rep. Youngblood

Transfers the responsibility of the Health Care Directive Registry from Secretary of State’s office to the Department of Health and Welfare.

*Status: Passed House Health and Welfare on Feb 21, awaiting full House action.*

[**H437**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0437/)**:  Smoking/Vaping in Vehicles** by Eagle High School students

Prohibits smoking or vaping in a vehicle if any passenger 18 years of age or younger.

*Status:  NO ACTION THIS WEEK  Introduced in House Health and Welfare on Feb 6, awaiting full committee hearing.*

[**H438**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0438/)**:  Prevention of Blindness and Disease in Infants** by Rep. Giddings

Eliminates a penalty provision when parents who home birth children fail to provide newborn screening date to the state.  In the words of the sponsor it will “decriminalize parents who birth their children at home and choose to not provide the state with newborn screening data.”

*Status:  Passed Full House 66-0 on Feb 17.  Now in Senate Health and Welfare committee for action.*

[**H387**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0387/)**: (formerly H341): Medical Billing Prohibition**, by Rep. Blanksma

Please see **H506**above.

[**H386**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0386/)**: Pharmacy Benefit Managers, by Rep. Vander Woude**

This bill creates and places parameters and requirements for creation of third-party pharmacy benefit managers, including registering with Dept of Insurance, prohibiting gag clauses for pharmacists regarding info to patients that could save costs, and requiring information on how maximum allowable costs are determined.

*Status: NO ACTION this week.  Passed the full house 51-17 on Feb 6, now awaiting action in Senate Commerce and Human resources Committee.*

[**H385**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0385/)**: Certified Medication Assistants**by Idaho Health Care Association

Updates and clarifies requirements, provide an avenue for CNAs to get additional training/certification to administer medications (esp. in long term care facilities).  Sponsors claim this is not new, but a revamp of existing statute and elimination confusing rules.

*Status:  Passed Senate Commerce Committee on Feb 19, to full Senate for action. Passed full House 68-0 on Feb 12.*

[**H342**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0342/)**:  Telehealth Services,**by Rep. Blanksma

This bill amends the current Telehealth Act to add to the definition of "Telehealth services" to include services such as consultations, assessments, remote monitoring, and transferring of medical data. This bill also adds a definition for "telehealth technologies" and removes the requirements for "two-way audio and visual" used for the first telehealth encounter in order to establish patient/provider relationship.

*Status:  NO ACTION THIS WEEK.  Placed on Senate Amending calendar for possible amendments on Feb 13.  Passed full House 68-0 on Feb 5.*

[**H317**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0317/)**:  Optometric Physician Licensing Act**, by Bureau of Occupational Licensing

Cleans up and modernizes the optometric licensing act.  Among other things, includes expanded scope of practice to allow optometrists to perform certain laser surgical procedures once they’ve met certain examination and experience requirements.

*Status:  NO ACTION THIS WEEK.  Passed full House 58-11 on Feb 5, awaiting action in Senate Health and Welfare committee.*

[**S1240**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/S1240/)**:  Advanced Practice Registered Nurse,**by Sen. Souza

To provide signature authority to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses for such documents as signing disabled parking permits, jury exemptions, disabled hunter permits, athletic physicals, or mental health declarations (all of which by statute currently require a physician signature).

*Status:  Now LAW.  Signed by Governor on Feb 18.  Passed House 67-0 on Feb 12.  Passed full Senate 35-0 on Feb 3.*

[**S1252**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/S1252/)**:  Injectable Cosmetics**by ID Cosmetic Safety Association

Clarifies that only physicians, PAs, RNs, dentists, or pharmacists may inject substances into a patient’s head or neck.  Specific to include Botox, Dermal/soft tissue fillers.

*Status:  NO ACTION THIS WEEK.  Introduced in Senate Health and Welfare committee on Jan 24.*

[**H315**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H315/)**:  Controlled Substances, Schedule I**, by Board of Pharmacy

This bill aligns Idaho Controlled Substances Act with decisions made in 2019 by the Federal DEA.  It places synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, and synthetic fentanyls in Schedule I.

*Status:**Now LAW.  Signed by Governor on Feb 13. Passed full Senate 34-0 on Feb 6, Passed full House 62-5 on Jan 27.*

[**H316**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0316/)**:  Pharmacy Act Updates**, by Board of Pharmacy

Updates Uniform Controlled Substances Act as it relates to Forfeitures and Discipline, updates and modernizes Pharmacy Act to be more consistent with recent legislative action.

*Status: Now LAW.  Signed by Governor on Feb 13. Passed full senate 34-0 on Feb 6, Passed full House 62-5 on Jan 27.*

[**H339**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0339/)**: Physical Therapy Dry Needling,**by Idaho Physical Therapy Association

Makes a correction to Physical Therapy Practice Act related to dry needling provisions adopted in the last legislative session.  Previous legislation required the courses be approved by a national physical therapy accreditation board, however such organization does not exist.  This gives authority for such course approval to the Idaho Physical Therapy Licensure Board.

*Status:  NO ACTION this week.  Passed full House 68-0 on Feb 5, to Senate Commerce and Human Resources for action.*

[**H351**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/legislation/H0351/)**:  Medicaid Reimbursements,**by Dept of Health and Welfare

Reduces net reimbursements to hospitals and nursing facilities in 2020 and 2021 to help achieve the general Medicaid general fund needs of a 1% overall reduction in FY 2020 and a 2% reduction in FY 2021.  (This in response to Governor Little’s edict to all state agencies for such reductions over the next two years).  Directs the Department to work collaboratively with hospitals and nursing facilities to update reimbursement methods.  Will facilitate a movement away from cost-based Medicaid payments to value-based.

*Status: NO ACTION THIS WEEK.  Passed Senate Health and Welfare on Feb 12, now to full Senate for action.  Passed full House 44-24 on Feb 5.*

As always, we will continue to track activity of interest to the Academy of Family Physicians in the Legislature.  We stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,

Ken Burgess, Partner

Veritas Advisors, LLP