
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1642 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY QUINN, BAKER, BARRAR, BOBACK, BROOKS, BROWNLEE,
CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, EVERETT, FLECK,
FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER,
HENNESSEY, HESS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MILLARD, R. MILLER, MILNE,
MOUL, MUNDY, MURT, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, ROCK, ROZZI,
SABATINA, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOOHL, WATSON AND
YOUNGBLOOD, AUGUST 23, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AUGUST 23, 2013

AN ACT

1 Providing for summaries or copies of patient test results to be
2 sent directly to a patient or the patient's designee when
3 there is a finding of a significant abnormality; and
4 providing for duties of the Department of Health.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Patient Test
9 Result Information Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Diagnostic imaging service." A medical test performed on a
15 patient, including any of the following:

16 (1) Magnetic resonance imaging.

- 1 (2) Nuclear medicine.
- 2 (3) Angiography.
- 3 (4) Arteriography.
- 4 (5) Computerized axial tomography.
- 5 (6) Positron emission tomography.
- 6 (7) Digital vascular imaging.
- 7 (8) Bronchoscopy.
- 8 (9) Lymphangiography.
- 9 (10) Splenography.
- 10 (11) Ultrasound.
- 11 (12) EEG.
- 12 (13) EKG.
- 13 (14) Nerve conduction studies.
- 14 (15) Evoked potentials.

15 "Significant abnormality." A finding by a diagnostic imaging
16 service of an abnormality or anomaly which would cause a
17 reasonably prudent person to seek additional or follow-up
18 medical care within three months.

19 Section 3. Test results.

20 (a) General rule.--An entity performing a diagnostic imaging
21 service shall send by mail, directly to the patient or the
22 patient's designee, a notice that the diagnostic imaging service
23 has completed a review of the test performed on the patient and
24 has sent results to the physician who ordered the diagnostic
25 imaging service when there is a finding of a significant
26 abnormality. The notice shall include all of the following:

- 27 (1) The name of the ordering physician.
- 28 (2) The date the test was performed.
- 29 (3) The date the results were sent to the ordering
30 physician.

1 (4) The summary of the report, otherwise known as an
2 impression or conclusion, or the complete results of the
3 diagnostic imaging service provided to the ordering
4 physician.

5 (b) Exceptions.--The following shall be exempted from the
6 requirements of subsection (a):

7 (1) Routine obstetrical ultrasounds used to monitor the
8 development of a fetus.

9 (2) Diagnostic imaging services performed on a patient
10 who is being treated on an inpatient basis.

11 (c) Test results.--No sooner than seven days and no later
12 than 20 days after the date under subsection (a)(3), the
13 diagnostic imaging service shall provide the patient with the
14 impression, conclusion or report of the results of the
15 diagnostic imaging service performed on the patient.

16 (d) Method of transmittal.--The notice under subsection (a)
17 and test results under subsection (c) may be provided
18 electronically by e-mail or facsimile if such communication is
19 deemed acceptable by the patient or the patient's designee.

20 Section 4. Duties of Department of Health.

21 The Department of Health shall, in accordance with law,
22 conduct compliance reviews and investigate complaints filed
23 relating to the requirements of section 3.

24 Section 5. Applicability.

25 The duties imposed under this act on entities performing
26 diagnostic imaging and the Department of Health shall not
27 commence until sufficient funding has been made available to the
28 department for its duties under section 4 and the department has
29 published a notice to that effect in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

30 Section 6. Existing professional obligation.

1 Nothing in this act shall be construed as relieving a health
2 care professional from complying with an existing professional
3 obligation to inform a patient of test results.

4 Section 7. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect in 60 days.