

CHAPTER 153

HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

153.01	Definitions.	153.46	Release of data by entity.
153.05	Collection and dissemination of health care and related information.	153.50	Protection of patient confidentiality.
153.08	Hospital rate increases or charges in excess of rates.	153.55	Protection of confidentiality.
153.10	Health care data reports.	153.60	Assessments to fund operations of department.
153.20	Uncompensated health care services report.	153.65	Provision of special information; user fees.
153.21	Consumer guide.	153.75	Rule making.
153.22	Patient–level data utilization, charge, and quality report.	153.85	Civil liability.
153.45	Release of data by department.	153.86	Immunity from liability.
153.455	Data organization; contract contingency.	153.90	Penalties.

153.01 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1d) “Administrator” has the meaning given in s. 633.01 (1).

(1g) “Ambulatory surgery center” has the meaning given under 42 CFR 416.2.

(2g) “Calculated variable” means a data element that is computed or derived from an original data item or derived using another data source.

(2m) “Data element” means an item of information from a uniform patient billing form.

(3g) “Data organization” means a nonstock corporation organized under ch. 181 that is described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and, in its capacity as a public health authority, does all of the following:

(a) Represents health care consumers, insurers, administrators, and health care providers.

(b) Is formed specifically to do all of the following:

1. Create a centralized claims repository for this state with credible and useful data elements for the purposes of quality improvement, health care provider performance comparisons, ready understandability, and consumer decision making.

2. Use the information it collects to develop and disseminate unified public reports on health care quality, safety, and efficiency.

(4) “Department” means the department of health services.

(4h) “Employer coalition” means an organization of employers formed for the purpose of purchasing health care coverage or services as a group.

(4j) “Entity” means a nonstock corporation organized under ch. 181 that is described in section 501 (c) (6) of the Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that does all of the following:

(a) Represents at least 70% of the hospitals in Wisconsin.

(b) Receives oversight with respect to services performed by the entity under this chapter from the secretary of health services.

(4p) “Health care plan” means an insured or self–insured plan providing coverage of health care expenses or an employer coalition.

(4t) “Health care provider” has the meaning given in s. 146.81 (1) and includes an ambulatory surgery center.

(5) “Hospital” has the meaning given under s. 50.33 (2).

(5m) “Insurer” has the meaning given under s. 632.745 (15).

(7) “Patient” means a person who receives health care services from a health care provider.

(8) “Payer” means a 3rd–party payer, including an insurer, federal, state or local government or another who is responsible for payment of a hospital charge.

(8m) “Public health authority” means the department or a person acting under this chapter under a grant of authority from or contract with the department.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1993 a. 16, 185, 491; 1997 a. 27, 231; 1999 a. 9 s. 2280ge; 1999 a. 32; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 228, 253; 2007 a. 20 s. 9121 (6) (a).

153.05 Collection and dissemination of health care and related information. (1) In order to provide to health care providers, insurers, consumers, governmental agencies and others information concerning health care providers and uncompensated health care services, and in order to provide information to assist in peer review for the purpose of quality assurance:

(a) Subject to s. 153.455, the department shall collect from health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, analyze, and disseminate health care information, as adjusted for case mix and severity, in language that is understandable to laypersons.

(b) The entity under contract under sub. (2m) (a) shall collect from hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers the health care information required of hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers by the department under ch. 153, 2001 stats., and the rules promulgated under ch. 153, 2001 stats., including, by the date that is 18 months after the date of the contract under sub. (2m) (a), outpatient hospital–based services. The entity shall analyze and disseminate that health care information, as adjusted for case mix and severity, in the manner required under this chapter, under ch. 153, 2001 stats., and under the rules promulgated under ch. 153, 2001 stats., and in language that is understandable to laypersons.

(c) Subject to s. 153.455 (1) to (3), the data organization under contract under sub. (2r) may request health care claims information from insurers and administrators. The data organization shall analyze and publicly report the health care claims information with respect to the cost, quality, and effectiveness of health care, in language that is understandable by lay persons, and shall develop and maintain a centralized data repository. The data organization shall provide to the department, without charge, health care claims information collected by and reports produced by the data organization that the department requests. If s. 153.455 (4) applies, the department may request health care claims information, which may be voluntarily provided by insurers and administrators, and may perform or contract for the performance of the other duties specified for the data organization under this paragraph.

(2m) (a) Notwithstanding s. 16.75 (1), (2), and (3m), by the 2nd month after July 26, 2003, the department of administration shall, from the appropriation under s. 20.505 (1) (im), contract with an entity to perform services under this chapter that are specified for the entity with respect to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of health care information of hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. The department of administration may not, by this contract, require from the entity any collection, analysis, or

dissemination of health care information of hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that is in addition to that required under this chapter.

(b) Biennially, the group specified under s. 153.01 (4j) (b) shall review the entity's performance, including the timeliness and quality of the reports generated by the entity. If the group is dissatisfied with the entity's performance, the group may recommend to the department of administration that that department use a competitive request-for-proposal process to solicit offers from other organizations for performance of the services. If no organization responds to the request for proposal, the department of health services shall perform the services specified for the entity with respect to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of health care information of hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers under this chapter.

(c) By April 1, annually, the secretary of health services shall submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), a report concerning the content and number of reports and currency of information and reports generated in the previous calendar year by the entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m).

(2r) Notwithstanding s. 16.75 (1), (2), and (3m), from the appropriation account under s. 20.515 (1) (ut) the department of employee trust funds may expend up to \$150,000, and from the appropriation accounts under s. 20.435 (1) (hg) and (hi) the department of health services, in its capacity as a public health authority, may expend moneys, to contract with a data organization to perform services under this chapter that are specified for the data organization under sub. (1) (c) or, if s. 153.455 (4) applies, for the department of health services to perform or contract for the performance of these services. As a condition of the contract under this subsection, all of the following apply:

NOTE: Sub. (2r) (intro.) is shown as affected by 2 acts of the 2007 Wisconsin legislature and as merged by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (2) (i).

(a) At least during the period of the contract, the data organization shall include as voting members of the board of directors of the data organization the secretary of health services and the secretary of employee trust funds, or their designees.

(b) The data organization shall provide matching funds, which may include in-kind contributions, as specified in the contract.

(c) Termination of funding and of services of the data organization under the contract or modification of the contract is subject to a determination made under s. 153.455 (3).

(2s) Annually, the department of health services and the department of employee trust funds shall jointly prepare and submit under s. 13.172 (3) to standing committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over health issues a report on the activities of the data organization under this chapter.

(3) (a) Upon request of the department for health care information relating to health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers and, if s. 153.455 (4) applies, for health care claims information as specified in sub. (1) (c), state agencies shall provide that information to the department for use in preparing reports under this chapter.

(b) Upon request of the entity under contract under sub. (2m) (a) for health care information relating to hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, state agencies shall provide that health care information to the entity for use in preparing reports under this chapter.

(c) Upon request of the data organization under contract under sub. (2r) for health care claims information, insurers and administrators may provide the health care claims information to the data organization for use in preparing reports and developing and maintaining a central data repository under this chapter, and, if s. 153.455 (4) applies, insurers and administrators may provide the health care claims information as requested by the department.

(5) (a) Unless sub. (13) applies, subject to s. 153.455, the department may require health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to submit to the department health

care information specified by rule under s. 153.75 (1) (n) for the preparation of reports, plans, and recommendations in the form specified by the department by rule.

(b) Unless sub. (13) applies, the entity under contract under sub. (2m) (a) may require hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to submit to the entity information for the preparation of reports, plans, and recommendations in the form specified by the entity.

(c) Subject to s. 153.455 (1) to (3), the data organization under contract under sub. (2r) may request insurers and administrators to submit to the data organization health care claims information for the preparation of reports, plans, and recommendations in the form specified by the data organization, including in standard electronic format. If s. 153.455 (4) applies, the department may request submission of the health care claims information from insurers and administrators in the form specified by the department, including in standard electronic format.

(6) The department may contract with a public or private organization that is not a major purchaser, payer or provider of health care services in this state for the provision of data processing services for the collection, analysis and dissemination of health care information under sub. (1) (a).

(6m) The department may contract with the group insurance board for the provision of data collection and analysis services related to health maintenance organizations and insurance companies that provide health insurance for state employees. The department shall establish contract fees for the provision of the services. All moneys collected under this subsection shall be credited to the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1) (hg).

(8) (a) Unless sub. (13) applies, subject to s. 153.455, the department shall collect, analyze and disseminate, in language that is understandable to laypersons, claims information and other health care information, as adjusted for case mix and severity, under the provisions of this chapter, as determined by rules promulgated by the department, from health care providers, other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, specified by rules promulgated by the department. Data from those health care providers may be obtained through sampling techniques in lieu of collection of data on all patient encounters and data collection procedures shall minimize unnecessary duplication and administrative burdens. If the department collects from health care plans data that is specific to health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, the department shall attempt to avoid collecting the same data from those health care providers.

(b) Unless sub. (13) applies, the entity under contract under sub. (2m) (a) shall collect, analyze, and disseminate, in language that is understandable to laypersons, claims information and other health care information, as adjusted for case mix and severity, under the provisions of this chapter, from hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. Data from hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers may be obtained through sampling techniques in lieu of collection of data on all patient encounters, and data collection procedures shall minimize unnecessary duplication and administrative burdens.

(c) Subject to s. 153.455 (1) to (3), the data organization under contract under sub. (2r) may request, analyze, and publicly report, in language that is understandable to laypersons, health care claims information, as adjusted for case mix and severity, from insurers and administrators. Data from these sources may be obtained through sampling techniques in lieu of collection of data on all insureds, and data collection procedures shall minimize unnecessary duplication and administrative burdens. If s. 153.455 (4) applies, the department may request health care claims information, which may be voluntarily provided by insurers and administrators, and may perform or contract for the performance of the other duties specified for the data organization under this paragraph.

(9) (a) Subject to s. 153.455, the department shall provide orientation and training to health care providers, other than hospitals

and ambulatory surgery centers, who submit data under this chapter, to explain the process of data collection and analysis and the procedures for data verification, comment, interpretation, and release.

(b) The entity under contract under sub. (2m) (a) shall provide orientation and training to hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that submit data under this chapter, to explain the process of data collection and analysis and the procedures for data verification, comment, interpretation, and release.

(c) Subject to s. 153.455 (1) to (3), the data organization under contract under sub. (2r) shall provide orientation and training to insurers and administrators that submit data under this chapter, to explain the process of data collection and analysis and the procedures for data verification, comment, interpretation, and release. If s. 153.455 (4) applies, the department may perform or contract for the performance of the duties specified for the data organization under this paragraph.

(12) (a) Subject to s. 153.455, the department shall, to the extent possible and upon request, assist members of the public in interpreting data in health care information disseminated by the department.

(b) The entity under contract under sub. (2m) (a) shall, to the extent possible and upon request, assist members of the public in interpreting data in health care information disseminated by the entity.

(c) The data organization under contract under sub. (2r) shall, subject to s. 153.455 (1) to (3), to the extent possible and upon request, assist members of the public in interpreting data in health care information disseminated by the data organization. If s. 153.455 (4) applies, the department may perform or contract for the performance of the duties specified for the data organization under this paragraph.

(13) The department may waive the requirement under sub. (1), (5) or (8) for a health care provider, who requests the waiver and presents evidence to the department that the requirement under sub. (1), (5) or (8) is burdensome, under standards established by the department by rule. The department shall develop a form for use by a health care provider in submitting a request under this subsection.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 18, 56; 1991 a. 250, 269; 1993 a. 16, 104, 185, 491; 1995 a. 27 ss. 4393, 9126 (19); 1997 a. 27, 231; 1999 a. 9; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 25, 228; 2007 a. 20 ss. 2898h, 9121 (6) (a); 2007 a. 97; s. 13.92 (2) (i).

Cross Reference: See also ch. DHS 120, Wis. adm. code.

153.08 Hospital rate increases or charges in excess of rates. (1) In this section:

(a) “Consumer price index” has the meaning given in s. 16.004 (8) (e) 1.

(b) Notwithstanding s. 153.01 (5), “hospital” has the meaning given in s. 50.33 (2), except that “hospital” does not include a center for the developmentally disabled as defined in s. 51.01 (3).

(c) “Rates” means individual charges of a hospital for the services that it provides.

(2) No hospital may increase its rates or charge any payer an amount exceeding its rates that are in effect on May 12, 1992, unless the hospital first causes to be published a class 1 notice under ch. 985 in a newspaper likely to give notice in the area where the hospital is located, no sooner than 45 days and no later than 30 days before the proposed rate change is to take effect. The notice shall describe the proposed rate change.

(3) This section does not apply to a hospital that proposes to increase its rates during the course of the hospital’s fiscal year by any amount or amounts that, in the aggregate, do not exceed the percentage amount that is the percentage difference between the consumer price index reported for the 12-month period ending on December 31 of the preceding year and the consumer price index reported for the 12-month period ending on December 31 of the year prior to the preceding year.

(4) A hospital shall publish a class 1 notice under ch. 985 at least 10 days prior to the institution by the hospital of a rate increase.

(5) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall annually publish a hospital rate increase report that contains all of the following information:

(a) For each hospital that publishes a notice under sub. (4), all of the following:

1. The name of the hospital and the city, village, or town in which the hospital is located.

2. The date the rate increase is to take effect.

3. The annualized percentage rate increase that will result.

4. The geographic area of analysis in which the hospital is located.

(b) A list of hospitals that have closed since 1993.

History: 1993 a. 16 ss. 2644 to 2646; 1993 a. 104 ss. 3, 5m, 7, 8, 9; 1993 a. 491; 1997 a. 27, 231; 2003 a. 33.

153.10 Health care data reports. (1) Subject to s. 153.455, the department shall prepare, and submit to the governor and the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), standard reports concerning health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that the department prepares and shall collect information necessary for preparation of those reports. If s. 153.455 (4) applies, the department shall include in the reports under this subsection reports concerning any health care claims information the department collects or contracts to collect under s. 153.05.

(2) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall prepare, and submit to the governor and the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), standard reports concerning hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that the entity prepares and shall collect information necessary for preparation of those reports.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1997 a. 27, 231; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 228.

153.20 Uncompensated health care services report.

(1) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall prepare, and submit to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), an annual report setting forth the number of patients to whom uncompensated health care services were provided by each hospital and the total charges for the uncompensated health care services provided to the patients for the preceding year, together with the number of patients and the total charges that were projected by the hospital for that year in the plan filed under sub. (2).

(2) Every hospital shall file with the entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) an annual plan setting forth the projected number of patients to whom uncompensated health care services will be provided by the hospital and the projected total charges for the uncompensated health care services to be provided to the patients for the ensuing year.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 18; 1997 a. 27, 231; 2003 a. 33.

153.21 Consumer guide. (1) The department shall prepare and submit to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) an annual guide to assist consumers in selecting health care providers and health care plans. The guide shall be written in language that is understandable to laypersons. The department shall widely publicize and distribute the guide to consumers.

(2) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall prepare and submit to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) an annual guide to assist consumers in selecting hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. The guide shall be written in language that is understandable to laypersons and shall include data derived from the annual survey of hospitals conducted by the

American Hospital Association and the annual hospital fiscal survey. The entity shall widely publicize and distribute the guide to consumers.

History: 1997 a. 231; 2003 a. 33.

153.22 Patient-level data utilization, charge, and quality report. The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall prepare and submit to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), an annual report that summarizes utilization, charge, and quality data on patients treated by hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers during the most recent calendar year.

History: 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 228.

153.45 Release of data by department. Subject to s. 153.455:

(1) After completion of data verification, comment and review procedures specified by the department by rule, the department shall release data, together with comments, if any, in the following forms:

(a) Standard reports.

(b) For information that is submitted by health care providers other than hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers, public use data files that do not permit the identification of specific patients, employers, or health care providers, as defined by rules promulgated by the department. The identification of patients, employers, or health care providers shall be protected by all necessary means, including the deletion of patient identifiers; the use of calculated variables and aggregated variables; the specification of counties as to residence, rather than zip codes; the use of 5-year categories for age, rather than exact age; not releasing information concerning a patient's race, ethnicity, or dates of admission, discharge, procedures, or visits; and masking sensitive diagnoses and procedures by use of larger diagnostic and procedure categories. Public use data files under this paragraph may include only the following:

1. The patient's county of residence.
2. The payment source, by type.
3. The patient's age category, by 5-year intervals.
4. The patient's procedure code.
5. The patient's diagnosis code.
6. Charges assessed with respect to the procedure code.
7. The name and address of the facility in which the patient's services were rendered.
8. The patient's sex.
9. Information that contains the name of a health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center, if the department first reviews and approves the release.
10. Calendar quarters of service, except if the department specifies by rule that the number of data elements included in the public use data file is too small to enable protection of patient confidentiality.
11. Information other than patient-identifiable data, as defined in s. 153.50 (1) (b), as approved by the department.

(c) Custom-designed reports containing portions of the data under par. (b). Information that contains the name of a health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center may be released only if the department first reviews and approves the release. Reports under this paragraph may include the patient's zip code only if at least one of the following applies:

1. Other potentially identifying data elements are not released.
2. Population density is sufficient to mask patient identity.
3. Other potentially identifying data elements are grouped to provide population density sufficient to protect identity.
4. Multiple years of data elements are added to protect identity.

(1m) After completion of data verification and review procedures specified by the department by rule, the department may, but is not required to, release special data compilations.

(2) The department shall provide to other agencies or to organizations the data necessary to fulfill their statutory mandates for epidemiological purposes or to minimize the duplicate collection of similar data elements.

(3) The department may, but is not required to, release health care provider-specific and employer-specific data that relates to health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, except in public use data files as specified under sub. (1) (b), in a manner that is specified in rules promulgated by the department.

(4) The department shall prohibit purchasers of data from rereleasing individual data elements of health care data files.

(5) The department may not release any health care information that is subject to rules promulgated under s. 153.75 (1) (b) until the verification, comment and review procedures required under those rules have been complied with. Nothing in this subsection prohibits release of information to a health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center, to whom the information is specific.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 18; 1993 a. 16; 1997 a. 27, 231; 1999 a. 9, 185; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 228.

153.455 Data organization; contract contingency.

(1) Except as provided in subs. (2), (3), and (4), beginning on the date, if any, that is 60 days after the contract under s. 153.05 (2r) takes effect, the department shall cease collecting, for calendar quarters that occur after that date, health care information as specified under s. HFS 120.14 (1), 2005 Wis. Adm. Code, in effect on April 13, 2006.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to ss. 153.21 (1) and 153.60 (1).

(3) Beginning on the date, if any, that the secretary of health services and the secretary of employee trust funds determine that the data organization is not in compliance with the contract under s. 153.05 (2r) with respect to the performance of the collection and public reporting of information regarding the cost, quality, and effectiveness of health care, including the development and maintenance of a centralized data repository, or determine that there is insufficient statewide participation under the requirements of the contract, the secretaries may modify or terminate the contract. If the secretaries terminate the contract, they shall recommend to the department of administration that that department use a competitive request-for-proposal process to solicit offers from other organizations for performance of the services required of the data organization under the terminated contract. If no organization responds to the request for proposals or if a successor contract cannot be achieved, sub. (4) applies.

(4) If the contract with the data organization is terminated under sub. (3) and no organization responds to the request for proposals or a successor contract cannot be achieved, the department, in its capacity as a public health authority, shall collect health care information, including as specified under s. HFS 120.14 (1), Wis. Adm. Code, in effect on April 13, 2006, and may request health care claims information, which may be voluntarily provided by insurers or administrators, under this chapter; shall analyze and disseminate, or contract for the performance of analysis and dissemination of, the health care information; and may analyze and disseminate, or may contract for the performance of analysis and dissemination of, the health care claims information.

History: 2005 a. 228; 2007 a. 20 s. 9121 (6) (a).

153.46 Release of data by entity. (1) After completion of data verification, comment, and review procedures, the entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall release data, together with comments, if any, in the following forms:

- (a) Standard reports.

(b) For information that is submitted by hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers, public use data files that do not permit the identification of specific patients, employers, or health care providers. The identification of patients, employers, or health care providers shall be protected by all necessary means, including the deletion of patient identifiers and the use of calculated variables and aggregated variables.

(c) Custom–designed reports containing portions of the data under par. (b). Reports under this paragraph may include the patient’s zip code only if at least one of the following applies:

1. Other potentially identifying data elements are not released.
2. Population density is sufficient to mask patient identity.
3. Other potentially identifying data elements are grouped to provide population density sufficient to protect identity.
4. Multiple years of data elements are added to protect identity.

(1m) After completion of data verification and review procedures specified under s. 153.01 (4j), the entity may, but is not required to, release special data compilations.

(2) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall provide to the department and to any other organization or agency the data necessary to fulfill the department’s, organization’s, or agency’s statutory mandates for epidemiological purposes.

(3) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) may, but is not required to, release hospital–specific, ambulatory surgery center–specific, and hospital or ambulatory surgery center employer–specific data, except in public use data files as specified under sub. (1) (b).

(4) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall, as limited by this section and s. 153.50, provide equal access to the data collected and reports generated by the entity to all requesters that pay the fees under s. 153.65 (2).

(5) The entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) shall provide to the department, without charge, claims and provider survey information that is requested by or required to be provided to the department.

(6) No person who purchases a data compilation or report under s. 153.65 (2) may release or sell the data sets so purchased.

History: 2003 a. 33 ss. 2094r, 2094x.

153.50 Protection of patient confidentiality. Subject to s. 153.455:

(1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(b) 1. “Patient–identifiable data”, for information submitted by hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, means all of the following data elements:

- a. Patient medical record or chart number.
- b. Patient control number.
- c. Patient date of birth.
- d. Date of patient admission.
- e. Date of patient discharge.
- f. Date of patient’s principal procedure.
- g. Encrypted case identifier.
- h. Insured’s policy number.
- i. Patient’s employer’s name.
- j. Insured’s date of birth.
- k. Insured’s identification number.
- L. Medicaid resubmission code.
- m. Medicaid prior authorization number.

1m. “Patient–identifiable data” does not include calculated variables that are derived from patient–identifiable data and the dissemination of which does not permit patient identification.

2. “Patient–identifiable data”, for information submitted by health care providers who are not hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers and by insurers and administrators, means all of the following data elements:

- a. Data elements specified in subd. 1. a. to g., L. and m.
- b. Whether the patient’s condition is related to employment, and occurrence and place of an auto accident or other accident.
- c. Date of first symptom of current illness, of current injury or of current pregnancy.
- d. First date of the patient’s same or similar illness, if any.
- e. Dates that the patient has been unable to work in his or her current occupation.
- f. Dates of receipt by the patient of medical service.
- g. The patient’s city, town or village.

(c) “Small number” means a number that is insufficiently large to be statistically significant, as determined by the department.

(3) MEASURES TO ENSURE PROTECTION OF PATIENT IDENTITY. To ensure that the identity of patients is protected when information obtained by the department, by the entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a), or by the data organization under contract under s. 153.05 (2r) is disseminated, the department, the entity, and the data organization shall do all of the following:

(a) Aggregate any data element category containing small numbers. The department, in so doing, shall use procedures that are developed by the department and that follow commonly accepted statistical methodology.

(b) Remove and destroy all of the following data elements on the uniform patient billing forms that are received by the department, the entity, or the data organization under the requirements of this chapter:

1. The patient’s name and street address.
2. The insured’s name, address and telephone number.
3. Any other insured’s name, employer name and date of birth.
4. The signature of the patient or other authorized signature.
5. The signature of the insured or other authorized signature.
6. The signature of the physician.
7. The patient’s account number, after use only as verification of data by the department or by the entity.

(c) Develop, for use by purchasers of data under this chapter, a data use agreement that specifies data use restrictions, appropriate uses of data and penalties for misuse of data, and notify prospective and current purchasers of data of the appropriate uses.

(d) Require that a purchaser of data under this chapter sign and have notarized the data use agreement of the department, the entity, or the data organization, as applicable.

(3m) PROVIDER, ADMINISTRATOR, OR INSURER MEASURES TO ENSURE PATIENT IDENTITY PROTECTION. A health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center or an insurer or an administrator shall, before submitting information required by the department, or by the data organization under contract under s. 153.05 (2r), under this chapter, convert to a payer category code as specified by the department or the data organization, as applicable, any names of an insured’s payer or other insured’s payer.

(4) RELEASE OF PATIENT–IDENTIFIABLE DATA. (a) Except as specified in pars. (b) and (c), under the procedures specified in sub. (5), release of patient–identifiable data may be made only to any of the following:

1. a. An agent of the department who is responsible for the patient–identifiable data in the department, in order to store the data and ensure the accuracy of the information in the database of the department or to create a calculated variable that is derived from the patient–identifiable data.

b. An agent of the entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) who is responsible for the patient–identifiable data of the entity, in order to store the data and ensure the accuracy of the information in the database of the entity or to create a calculated variable that is derived from the patient–identifiable data.

c. An agent of the data organization under contract under s. 153.05 (2r) who is responsible for the patient–identifiable data of the data organization, in order to store the data and ensure the

accuracy of the information in the database of the data organization or to create a calculated variable that is derived from the patient–identifiable data.

2. A health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center or the agent of such a health care provider, to ensure the accuracy of the information in the database of the department or the data organization under contract under s. 153.05 (2r), or a health care provider that is a hospital or ambulatory surgery center or the agent of such a health care provider, to ensure the accuracy of the information in the database of the entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a).

3. The department or its agent, for purposes of epidemiological investigation, or, with respect to information from health care providers that are not hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers, the department or the data organization under contract under s. 153.05 (2r), to eliminate the need for duplicative databases.

4. An agency or organization that is required by federal or state statute to obtain patient–identifiable data for purposes of epidemiological investigation or to eliminate the need for duplicative databases.

(b) Of information submitted by health care providers that are not hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers, patient–identifiable data that contain a patient’s date of birth may be released under par. (a) only under circumstances as specified by rule by the department.

(c) The data organization under contract under s. 153.05 (2r) may not share health care claims data collected by the data organization unless the sharing is in compliance with 42 USC 1320d–2 and 1320d–4 and 45 CFR 164.

(5) PROCEDURES FOR RELEASE OF PATIENT–IDENTIFIABLE DATA.

(a) The department, an entity that is under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a), or a data organization that is under contract under s. 153.05 (2r) may not release or provide access to patient–identifiable data to a person authorized under sub. (4) (a) unless the authorized person requests the department, entity, or data organization, in writing, to release the patient–identifiable data. The request shall include all of the following:

1. The requester’s name and address.
2. The reason for the request.
3. For a person who is authorized under sub. (4) (a) to receive or have access to patient–identifiable data, evidence, in writing, that indicates that authorization.
4. For an agency or organization that is authorized under sub. (4) (a) 4. to receive or have access to patient–identifiable data, evidence, in writing, of all of the following:

a. The federal or state statutory requirement to obtain the patient–identifiable data.

b. Any federal or state statutory requirement to uphold the patient confidentiality provisions of this chapter or patient confidentiality provisions that are more restrictive than those of this chapter; or, if the latter evidence is inapplicable, an agreement, in writing, to uphold the patient confidentiality provisions of this chapter.

(b) Upon receipt of a request under par. (a), the department, entity, or data organization, whichever is applicable, shall, as soon as practicable, comply with the request or notify the requester, in writing, of all of the following:

1. That the department, entity, or data organization, as applicable, is denying the request in whole or in part.
2. The reason for the denial.
3. For a person who believes that he or she is authorized under sub. (4) (a), the action provided under s. 19.37.

(5m) EMPLOYERS NOT TO REQUEST PATIENT–IDENTIFIABLE DATA. Notwithstanding subs. (4) and (5) no employer may request the release of or access to patient–identifiable data of an employee of the employer.

(6) INFORMATION SUBMITTED. (a) The department or entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) may not require a health

care provider submitting health care information under this chapter to include the patient’s name, street address or social security number.

(b) The department may not require under this chapter a health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center to submit uniform patient billing forms.

(c) A health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center may not submit any of the following to the department under the requirements of this chapter:

1. The data elements specified under sub. (3) (b).
2. The patient’s telephone number.
3. The insured’s employer’s name or school name.
4. Data regarding insureds other than the patient, other than the payer category code under sub. (3m).
5. The patient’s employer’s name or school name.
6. The patient’s relationship to the insured.
7. The insured’s identification number.
8. The insured’s policy or group number.
9. The insured’s date of birth or sex.
10. The patient’s marital, employment or student status.

(d) If a health care provider that is not a hospital or ambulatory surgery center submits a data element that is specified in par. (c) 1. to 10., the department shall immediately return this information to the health care provider or, if discovered later, shall remove and destroy the information.

(e) A health care provider may not submit information that uses any of the following as a patient account number:

1. The patient’s social security number or any substantial portion of the patient’s social security number.
2. A number that is related to another patient identifying number.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 18; 1993 a. 16; 1995 a. 27 s. 9126 (19); 1997 a. 27, 231; 1999 a. 9, 185; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 228.

153.55 Protection of confidentiality. Data obtained under this chapter is not subject to inspection, copying or receipt under s. 19.35 (1).

History: 1997 a. 231; 1999 a. 9.

153.60 Assessments to fund operations of department. Subject to s. 153.455:

(1) The department shall, by the first October 1 after the commencement of each fiscal year, estimate the total amount of expenditures under this chapter for the department for that fiscal year for data collection, database development and maintenance, generation of data files and standard reports, orientation and training provided under s. 153.05 (9) (a) and contracting with the data organization under s. 153.05 (2r). The department shall assess the estimated total amount for that fiscal year, less the estimated total amount to be received for purposes of administration of this chapter under s. 20.435 (1) (hi) during the fiscal year and the unencumbered balance of the amount received for purposes of administration of this chapter under s. 20.435 (1) (hi) from the prior fiscal year, to health care providers, other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, who are in a class of health care providers from whom the department collects data under this chapter in a manner specified by the department by rule. The department shall work together with the department of regulation and licensing to develop a mechanism for collecting assessments from health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. No health care provider that is not a facility may be assessed under this subsection an amount that exceeds \$75 per fiscal year. All payments of assessments shall be credited to the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1) (hg).

(3) The department shall, by the first October 1 after the commencement of each fiscal year, estimate the total amount of expenditures required for the collection, database development and maintenance and generation of public data files and standard reports for health care plans that voluntarily agree to supply health

care data under s. 153.05 (6r). The department shall assess the estimated total amount for that fiscal year to health care plans in a manner specified by the department by rule and may enter into an agreement with the office of the commissioner of insurance for collection of the assessments. Each health plan that voluntarily agrees to supply this information shall pay the assessments on or before December 1. All payments of assessments shall be deposited in the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1) (hg) and may be used solely for the purposes of s. 153.05 (6r).

NOTE: Sub. (3) is repealed by 2005 Wis. Act 228 effective the date specified in s. 153.455 (1) of the statutes, as created by 2005 Wis. Act 228. Section 153.05 (6r) was repealed effective 7–1–06 by Act 228.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 18, 56; 1991 a. 178; 1993 a. 16; 1997 a. 27, 231, 237; 1999 a. 9, 185, 186; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 25, 228.

153.65 Provision of special information; user fees.

(1) Subject to s. 153.455, the department may, but is not required to, provide, upon request from a person, a data compilation or a special report based on the information collected by the department. The department shall establish user fees for the provision of these compilations or reports, payable by the requester, which shall be sufficient to fund the actual necessary and direct cost of the compilation or report. All moneys collected under this subsection shall be credited to the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1) (hi).

(2) Beginning January 1, 2004, unless the entity under contract under s. 153.05 (2m) (a) otherwise agrees and except as provided in s. 153.46 (6), the entity has the exclusive right to use and to provide for a fee, upon request from a person, a data compilation or a special report based on the information concerning hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that is collected by the entity or provided by the department to the entity. Subject to approval under s. 153.01 (4j) (b), the entity shall establish reasonable and necessary user fees for the provision of a compilation or report, payable by the requester, which shall be sufficient to fund the cost of the compilation or report. The entity may retain all user fees paid under this subsection.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1993 a. 16, 104; 1997 a. 27, 231; 1999 a. 9; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 25, 228.

153.75 Rule making. (1) The department shall promulgate the following rules:

NOTE: Sub. (1) (intro.) is amended by 2005 Wis. Act 228 effective the date specified in s. 153.455 (1) of the statutes, as created by 2005 Wis. Act 228, to read:

(1) The department shall promulgate the following rules, of which pars. (a), (b), (f), (h), (m), (n), (o), (r), (t), and (u) shall apply only if the contract under s. 153.05 (2r) is terminated under s. 153.455 (3) and s. 153.455 (4) applies:

(a) Providing procedures, for information submitted by health care providers who are not hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers, to ensure the protection of patient confidentiality under s. 153.50.

(b) Establishing procedures under which health care providers who are not hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers are permitted to review, verify and comment on information and include the comments with the information.

(f) Governing the release of health care provider–specific and employer–specific data under s. 153.45 (1m) and (3).

(g) Establishing criteria for the publication and contents of notices under s. 153.08.

(h) Defining the term “major purchaser, payer or provider of health care services” for the purposes of s. 153.05 (6).

(k) Establishing methods and criteria for assessing health care providers under s. 153.60 (1).

(m) Specifying the classes of health care providers, other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, from whom claims data and other health care information will be collected.

(n) Specifying the uniform data set of health care information, as adjusted for case mix and severity, to be collected from health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

(o) Specifying the means by which the information in par. (b) will be collected, including the procedures for submission of data by electronic means.

(p) Specifying the methods for using and disseminating health care data in order for health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to provide health care that is effective and economically efficient and for consumers and purchasers to make informed decisions in selecting health care plans and health care providers.

(q) Specifying the information to be provided by the department in the consumer guide under s. 153.21 (1).

(r) Specifying the standard reports that will be issued by the department in addition to those required in s. 153.21 (1).

(s) Defining “individual data elements” for purposes of s. 153.45 (4).

(t) Establishing standards for determining under s. 153.05 (13) if a requirement under s. 153.05 (1) (a), (5) (a), or (8) (a) is burdensome for a health care provider other than a hospital or ambulatory surgery center.

(u) Specifying the methods for adjusting health care information obtained from health care providers other than hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers for case mix and severity.

(2) The department may promulgate all of the following rules: **NOTE:** Sub. (2) (intro.) is amended by 2005 Wis. Act 228 effective the date specified in s. 153.455 (1) of the statutes, as created by 2005 Wis. Act 228, to read: (2) The department may promulgate all of the following rules, which shall apply only if the contract under s. 153.05 (2r) is terminated under s. 153.455 (3) and s. 153.455 (4) applies:

(a) Exempting certain classes of health care providers that are not hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers from providing all or portions of the data required under this chapter.

(c) Providing for the efficient collection, analysis and dissemination of health care information which the department may require under this chapter.

(d) Specifying the information collected under any voluntary system of health care plan reporting under s. 153.05 (6r) and the methods and criteria for assessing health care plans that submit data under that subsection.

NOTE: Par. (d) is repealed by 2005 Wis. Act 228 effective the date specified in s. 153.455 (1) of the statutes, as created by 2005 Wis. Act 228. Section 153.05 (6r) was repealed effective 7–1–06 by Act 228.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 18; 1993 a. 16; 1997 a. 27, 231; 2003 a. 33; 2005 a. 228.

Cross Reference: See also ch. DHS 120, Wis. adm. code.

153.85 Civil liability. Except as provided in s. 153.86, any person violating s. 153.50 or rules promulgated under s. 153.75 (1) (a) is liable to the patient for actual damages and costs, plus exemplary damages of up to \$1,000 for a negligent violation and up to \$5,000 for an intentional violation.

History: 1987 s. 399; 1999 a. 9.

153.86 Immunity from liability. (1) A health care provider that submits information to the department under this chapter is immune from civil liability for all of the following:

(a) Any act or omission of an employee, official or agent of the health care provider that results in the release of a prohibited data element while submitting data to the department.

(b) Any act or omission of the department that results in the release of data.

(2) The immunity provided under this section does not apply to intentional, willful or reckless acts or omissions by health care providers.

History: 1999 a. 9.

153.90 Penalties. (1) Whoever intentionally violates s. 153.45 (5) or 153.50 or rules promulgated under s. 153.75 (1) (a) may be fined not more than \$15,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both.

(2) Any person who violates this chapter or any rule promulgated under the authority of this chapter, except ss. 153.45 (5), 153.50 and 153.75 (1) (a), as provided in s. 153.85 and sub. (1), shall forfeit not more than \$100 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense, except that no day in the period between the date on which a request for a hearing is filed

under s. 227.44 and the date of the conclusion of all administrative and judicial proceedings arising out of a decision under this section constitutes a violation.

(3) The department may directly assess forfeitures under sub. (2). If the department determines that a forfeiture should be assessed for a particular violation or for failure to correct the violation, the department shall send a notice of assessment to the alleged violator. The notice shall specify the alleged violation of the statute or rule and the amount of the forfeiture assessed and shall inform the alleged violator of the right to contest the assessment under s. 227.44.

History: 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 18; 1993 a. 16; 1997 a. 27, 231; 1999 a. 9.