



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2015 Wisconsin Act 287**  
[2015 Senate Bill 628]

**Collection of Health Care  
Information**

2015 Wisconsin Act 287 modifies state law regarding collection, analysis, and dissemination of health care information under a program administered by the Department of Administration (DOA). Wisconsin law, retained by the Act authorizes DOA to contract with a nonprofit entity for collection of health care information from hospitals and freestanding ambulatory surgery centers in the state, analysis of the health care information, and dissemination of aggregate information to the public. State law restricts the contracting entity from disclosing patient-identifying data to the public, and it requires the entity to receive oversight from the Secretary of the Department of Health Services in connection with the program.

Act 287 modifies the requirements for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of health care information under the DOA program, as follows:

- Data elements identifying race or ethnicity are no longer considered “patient-identifiable data” following the enactment of Act 287. This change allows the contracting entity to disclose these data elements to requesters, which had been prohibited under prior law.
- Following the enactment of Act 287, the entity under contract may require a hospital or ambulatory surgery center to submit a patient’s street address, which the entity may use to create a calculated variable that does not identify a patient’s address or convert the data element to the corresponding U.S. Census tract and block group. The Act requires the entity to destroy the street address information upon creation of a variable or conversion to a block group. Prior law had prohibited the entity from requiring submission of a patient’s street address.
- Requirements of the entity under contract related to distribution of reports and administration of a physician review process may be conducted using electronic or online distribution, in most cases, following the enactment of Act 287. Previously, paper mailing was used.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

- All data elements submitted to the nonprofit entity must be consistent with the applicable American National Standards Institute 837 format used for electronic data interchange, or in a successor format specified by the entity, following the enactment of Act 287.

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