
DIGEST

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HB 849 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Illg

Abstract: Establishes procedures for healthcare professionals providing care for patients suffering from behavioral health issues.

Proposed law states that if a patient is admitted for inpatient behavioral healthcare services as a result of an emergency certificate issued by a physician, the inpatient healthcare facility shall make a reasonable effort to do all of the following:

- (1) Notify any healthcare professional treating the patient for a behavioral healthcare condition that the patient is to be discharged if such notification is requested by the patient.
- (2) Notify any healthcare professional scheduled to provide follow-up behavioral healthcare services of the patient's discharge no later than date that the patient is scheduled for follow-up services. The notice shall include of a summary of the patient's condition and any medically relevant information.
- (3) Provide the patient educational documents created and published by the La. Department of Health prior to discharge explaining the signs of self-harm and the importance of seeking follow-up care.

Proposed law provides that a healthcare professional that offers behavioral health services may accept documents from the family, friends, loved ones, and caregivers of the patient about the patient's condition. Proposed law further provides that healthcare professional may add relevant documentation to the patient's medical record.

(Adds R.S. 28:53.1 and R.S. 40:1165.1(A)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Add that healthcare professionals may communicate via telephone conversation to satisfy the requirements of this proposed law.
2. Add that the La. Department of Health shall create and publish educational documents about the risks to a patient after discharge from an admission pursuant to an emergency

certification.

3. Provide that a healthcare provider has the discretion to include collected documentation from family, friends, loved ones, and caregivers about the patient's condition in the patient's medical record.