Legislative Briefing

OHA Health Policy Action

Your guide to proposed health legislation, what we think about it, and what we're doing about it.

March 2013

H.B. No. 5977; *An Act Requiring Prompt Disclosure Of Children's Medical Test Results To Patients*

What is this bill about?

H.B. 5977 will require health care professionals to share blood and lab test results with parents as soon as the results are available and to require that a physician is present when the results are shared to assess the findings.

By requiring laboratories to share lab results with a child's parents as soon as they are available, and in the presence of the treating provider, patient and guardian involvement in the medical decision-making process can be significantly enhanced. ..

What are the implications of this bill for healthcare consumer advocacy?

Although we are cognizant of the need for protection of sensitive medical information, like lab results related to mental health treatment for children age 16 and older, HB 5977 increases consumer participation in their own healthcare and codifies the principle that patients have a right to their medical information..

Please refer all media, agency, and legislator inquiries to Vicki Veltri

Talking Points

1. OHA is aware of this proposed legislation and submitted written public testimony **in support** of this bill.
2. HB 5977 represents an important measure in the promotion of consumer access to their medical information.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of patient's rights to prompt disclosure of their medical information and patient's right to participation in their own health care.

OHA represents the collective voice of 3.5 million healthcare consumers. For our state to be competitive, our people must be healthy. Our mission is to • assure managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare • educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans • inform legislators of problems consumers face in accessing care and propose solutions to those problems.