



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

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April 2, 2014

Dear Provider:

During the 83rd Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, House Bill 1376 was enacted, which became effective on September 1, 2013. This law mandates that facilities affiliated with licensed hospitals that provide emergency services to advertise as emergency rooms. This law also stipulates that facilities must display notice that they function as an emergency room. The notice should explain that patients who receive medical services will be billed according to comparable rates for hospital emergency room services in the same region.

The billing notice should be prominently and conspicuously posted for display in a public area of the facility, that is readily available to each patient, managing conservator, or guardian. In order to reduce confusion and ensure consistency in meeting this requirement, facilities should post signage that reads as follows: ***“Patients who receive medical services in this facility will be billed according to comparable rates for hospital emergency room services in the same region.”***

If you have further questions related to this matter, please contact Ellen Cooper, R.N., Health Facility Licensing Group Manager, at: Ellen.Cooper@dshs.state.tx.us or via phone at: (512) 834-6600 extension 6639.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee Clack".

Renee Clack, L.N.F.A.
Director, Health Care Quality Section
Division for Regulatory Services