

HB 712 -- NOTICE TO PATIENTS

SPONSOR: Solon

This bill requires all licensed hospitals to provide oral and written notice to each patient regarding whether the patient is admitted to the hospital under inpatient status or observational status during the intake process, at any time the patient's status changes, and upon discharge. Upon discharge the hospital must provide oral and written notice to the patient regarding the duration of the patient's inpatient status, observational status, or both.

Each oral and written notice must include:

- (1) A statement regarding whether the patient is being admitted to the hospital under inpatient status or observational status;
- (2) A statement that observation status may affect the patient's Medicare, MO HealthNet, or private insurance coverage for hospital services including medications and pharmaceutical supplies and for home- and community-based care or rehabilitative services at a skilled nursing facility if needed upon discharge from the hospital; and
- (3) A recommendation that the patient contact his or her health insurance provider to better understand the implications of a patient's placement in observation status.

Each written notice must include the name and title of the hospital representative who gave oral notice, the date and time oral notice was given, and the signature of the hospital representative, and must be signed and dated by the patient or his or her legal guardian or authorized representative, if applicable, to verify receipt and understanding of the oral and written notice.

Oral and written notice must be provided in a manner that is understood by the patient. If the patient lacks the capacity to understand the medical or financial implications of his or her patient status, the oral and written notice must be provided to his or her legal guardian or authorized representative.