

FACILITY FEE FACT SHEET

- » A facility fee can be charged, in addition to the full price for an office visit, when the clinician providing the service does not own the building within which care is delivered.
- » When a facility fee is billed, total billed charges are 78.7 percent higher. Consumers may have convenient choices to avoid facility fees, but do not seek these out because they are not aware of the fee until they receive the bill.
- » Assembly Bill 207 (AB 207) would require providers to notify patients at the time an appointment is made that a facility fee will be charged. It would also require providers to give a good faith estimate of what the fee will be.
- » The Alliance has been actively working to promote AB 207 because of concerns expressed by members about facility fees.
- » Since facility fees appeared, they have become more common. They are now billed by providers in all parts of the state.
- » Some hospitals oppose AB 207 because they are concerned about the time and level of effort it would require to explain facility fees to patients. They also cite concerns about providing accurate good faith estimates because the amount of the facility fee depends on factors that may not be known until after the service is rendered (length of time of the visit, how many clinic staff are utilized, etc.)
- » Hospitals in some parts of the country are already doing what AB 207 would require — notifying consumers that a facility fee will be charged at the time an appointment is made and providing estimates of the cost. This disclosure is the result of a lawsuit brought by consumers in Seattle, Washington.
- » AB 207 was recently approved by an Assembly Committee with an amendment that addressed several of hospitals' concerns and included a provision that would allow hospitals to forgo a facility fee notice to repeat patients who were already provided a disclosure for the same service within a certain time period.