



SB 1464 – Cardiac Catheterization Labs

Clarifying the Health and Safety Code

SUMMARY

SB 1464 makes technical and clarifying changes to Section 1256.01 of the Health and Safety Code (HSC) related to the Elective Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (ePCI) Program, and, Section 1255(d)(1), which relates to services provided in cardiac catheterization labs (cath lab). This bill will resolve conflicts and remove obstacles that are currently faced by general acute care hospitals in receiving approval to provide essential care.

BACKGROUND

Health and Safety Code Section 1256.01 established the Elective Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Program. The purpose of this program was to allow the California Department of Public Health to authorize general acute care hospitals that are licensed to provide cardiac catheterization laboratory service in California to perform scheduled, elective percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty and stent placement for eligible patients.

THE PROBLEM

Current law was written when Percutaneous Coronary Intervention was a new procedure. However, the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions recommendations are no longer aligned with the requirements found in HSC Section 1256.01.

There is a reference in HSC Section 1256.01 regarding “urgent and emergent” cath lab services, which implies that there is a separate approval process for “urgent and emergent” services. This causes confusion for program applicants, surveyors, and those involved in the

THE SOLUTION

SB 1464 will resolve the conflict in current law without changing the requirements or permissions for any other approved services in cardiac catheterization labs. Specifically, this bill will resolve the conflict in HSC Section 1255(d)(1) that limits services in a cath lab to only those that are diagnostic in nature. It also resolves the conflict in HSC Section 1256.01 to allow an ePCI program to operate in a hospital with a cath lab that does not have on-site cardiac surgery services, which is currently prohibited.

Lastly, this bill will eliminate confusing language regarding cardiac catheterization labs being approved to perform “urgent and emergent” services. By addressing existing conflicts and barriers in current law, SB 1464 will provide crucial clarification and improve access to essential care within general acute care hospitals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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