



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 19, 2013

R&R BOH13-04

Proposed No. BOH13-04.1

Sponsors

1 A RULE AND REGULATION relating to fees for personal
2 health services; amending R&R 35, Section 1, as amended,
3 and BOH 3.04.010, R&R 05-09, Section 2, and BOH
4 3.04.020, R&R 05-09, Section 4, and BOH 3.04.040 and
5 R&R 05-09, Section 5 (part), and BOH 3.04.050; enacted
6 pursuant to RCW 70.05.060, including the latest amendments
7 or revisions thereto.

8 BE IT ADOPTED BY THE KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

9 SECTION 1. R&R 35, Section 1, as amended, and BOH 3.04.010 are each
10 hereby amended to read as follows:

11 **Personal health service programs.** To provide for a portion of the costs to the
12 health department for the provision of services associated with personal health care,
13 which includes, but is not limited to, maternal and child health programs, laboratory
14 services, sexually transmitted disease, tuberculosis or other communicable disease
15 clinics, refugee health, dental services, family planning programs, other primary care
16 programs and treatment for diseases related to the public health of the county,
17 immunizations, pharmaceuticals and other personal health supplies, the director of public
18 health is authorized to set, charge and collect fees according to the following guidelines,
19 except where the imposition of such fees is prohibited by federal or state law, or is

20 inconsistent with the terms of an agreement between the health department and a third
21 party or grantor:

22 A. Method for Setting Full Fees for Personal Health Services.

23 1. Fees for personal health services provided during personal health visits shall
24 be set at the lesser of the full cost for providing the service or the median of ~~((non~~
25 ~~discounted))~~ nondiscounted personal health service fees charged by healthcare providers
26 in the Seattle metropolitan area, rounded to the nearest dollar, and shall be set by the
27 director of public health in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

28 2. Fees for immunizations, including travel immunizations, shall be set in
29 amounts equal to or less than the full cost of the vaccine plus an administration fee per
30 dose of vaccine.

31 a. The administration fee for immunizations provided using vaccine funded
32 through the state Vaccines for Children Program shall be set at the maximum allowed by
33 the Washington State Department of Health.

34 b. For all other immunizations, including travel immunizations, the
35 administration fee shall not be set higher than the full cost of providing immunization
36 services.

37 3. Fees for pharmaceuticals and supplies shall be set to cover the full costs of
38 the medication or supplies and the full costs of procuring, storing, distributing and
39 dispensing the medications or supplies and the costs of client education and counseling
40 by pharmacists, as applicable.

41 4. Fees for laboratory services and administration of purified protein derivative
42 ~~((("PPD")))~~ tests shall cover either the full costs of administering the ~~((PPD))~~ test or

43 providing the laboratory services in the department or the full cost of purchasing the
44 laboratory services through a laboratory contracted with the department, or both.

45 SECTION 2. R&R 05-09, Section 2, and BOH 3.04.020 are each hereby
46 amended to read as follows:

47 **Authority to waive fees.**

48 A. The director of public health is authorized to waive fees for health services
49 that are necessary to avert or control an emergency public health problem or to control a
50 communicable disease. In addition, the director of public health is authorized to waive
51 fees for services outside of a public health center clinic where it is unsafe to collect and
52 secure fees for services.

53 B. A person shall not be denied clinically necessary care or services due to an
54 inability of the person to pay.

55 SECTION 3. R&R 05-09, Section 4, and BOH 3.04.040 are each hereby
56 amended to read as follows:

57 **Reduced fees.**

58 A. ~~((Sliding Fee Scales for Low Income Clients.))~~ For low-income clients
59 without applicable third-party coverage for the services they have received, the director
60 of public health is authorized to charge and collect a reduced fee for personal health
61 services, laboratory tests, pharmaceuticals or supplies ~~((according to the following~~
62 ~~schedule. The sliding scale reduces fees))~~ based on the client's household income and
63 family size, as determined and revised annually by the United States Community
64 Services Administration ("CSA") Poverty Guidelines.

65 ~~((Category Gross Income Fee~~

66	A	Equal to or less than 100% CSA	No charge
67		Poverty Guidelines	
68	B	101% to 150% CSA Poverty Guidelines	25% of full fee.
69	C	151% to 200% CSA poverty Guidelines	50% of full fee.
70	D	201% to 250% CSA Poverty Guidelines	75% of full fee.
71	E	Over 250% CSA poverty Guidelines	Full fee.

72 ~~The sliding scale does~~) Reduced fee schedules do not apply to:

- 73 1. Travel immunizations or other travel health services;
- 74 2. Copayments for services otherwise covered by the client's health plan; or
- 75 3. Services where the director of public health has determined a ~~((minimum))~~
- 76 nominal fee will be charged.

77 B. ~~((Minimum))~~ 1. Nominal fees for personal health services, including, but not
78 limited to, personal health visits with providers, pharmaceuticals, laboratory tests and
79 supplies, may be established and charged at the discretion of the director of public health.

80 ~~((1.))~~ 2. The director of public health is authorized to charge ~~((minimum))~~
81 nominal fees to clients and for services where such charges:

- 82 a. are not prohibited by federal or state regulation;
- 83 b. are not prohibited by the terms of contracts held between the department and
- 84 third party payors; and
- 85 c. are administratively feasible.

86 ~~((2. Method of establishing minimum fees: Minimum))~~ 3. Nominal fees
87 ~~((will))~~ shall reflect practices and rates used by other federally qualified health centers in
88 Seattle and King County.

89 SECTION 4. R&R 05-09, Section 5 (part), and BOH 3.04.050 are each hereby
90 amended to read as follows:

91 **Annual review and adjustments of fees.** The director of public health is
92 directed and authorized to periodically review and ~~((annually))~~ adjust fees ~~((to reflect~~
93 ~~changes in the cost to the department of providing services and to reflect changes in the~~
94 ~~median of fees charged by providers in the Seattle metropolitan area, except that fees~~
95 ~~may not be adjusted to be greater than either the full costs to the department to either~~
96 ~~acquire or provide, or both, the services or supplies or the median fees for personal health~~
97 ~~services charged by providers in the Seattle metropolitan area))~~ consistent with the
98 guidelines of this chapter. The director of public health shall adjust full fees and
99 ~~((minimum))~~ nominal fees for pharmaceuticals, supplies and vaccines when the
100 department's acquisition costs for pharmaceuticals supplies and vaccines change.

101 SECTION 5. **Severability.** If any provision of this rule or its application to any

102 person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the rule or the application of the
103 provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
104

R&R BOH13-04 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 7/18/2013,
by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Mr. Conlin, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Clark, Dr.
Nicola, Dr. Baker, Ms. Wales and Dr. Delecki
No: 0
Excused: 4 - Ms. Frisinger, Mr. Licata, Dr. Danielson and Mr.
McDermott

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:


Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None