



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

July 2018

Dear PDA Developer Community,

We are writing to make you aware of changes in the Washington State Health Care Authority's process for Patient Decision Aid certification. Up to now, the Health Care Authority (HCA) has provided certification free of charge. The legislative mandate which created the certification process directed the HCA to develop a mechanism to charge for certification, in order to cover expenses and make certification efforts sustainable.

With the upcoming cycle we will be initiating fees for review for consideration for certification.

We have developed our fee schedule based on the HCA's expenses for the certification process, including staff time and resources and expert review consultation. Fees may be adjusted over time to reflect changing costs. Our intent is not for the fees to become a profit source, but simply to cover our costs for the process.

We understand that development of a decision aid is an expensive and time-consuming process, and we anticipate that our fees will be a minimal addition to this expense and will not pose a significant burden for you. The benefits of certification include:

- Increased visibility to the provider, payer, and patient communities
- Inclusion under national programs that reference certification (NCQA, etc.); Washington is currently the only PDA certification body nationally or internationally, so certification under our process is particularly significant
- Inclusion in Washington HCA's Shared Decision Making programs, including the Accountable Care Program for public employee benefits, which has specific provisions for the use of patient decision aids

Most patient decision aids are proprietary and a fee is charged for their use. A few aids are available to the public without charge; in order to support this model and encourage broad availability, HCA will waive the application fee for any aid that is available to the public without charge.

With our last cycle of certification, we initiated a screening process to identify submissions that did not meet basic initial criteria as a decision aid; if these were not met, the aid did not undergo full review. Our fees will reflect a nominal charge for this process, so that a submission which does not meet basic criteria will not incur the full expense of a review.

Our intent is not for the fees to be a barrier to submission of aids. If the fees do present a significant barrier for you, please let us know and we are happy to explore ways to overcome this.

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We are happy to hear input or respond to questions about the process. Please feel free to reach out to us at shareddecisionmaking@hca.wa.gov. We will be having a webinar Wednesday, August 8 from 9 – 10 a.m. To register please go to:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/412376626397013251>

We are excited to move forward with this change in order to make our certification efforts sustainable, and to enable us to continue working with you to make high-quality certified aids available to the patient and provider community.

Best,

Dr. Emily Transue