

Health Care Facilities Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Katy Hall

Senate Sponsor: Keith Grover

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses satellite emergency departments.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- establishes requirements for certain satellite emergency departments; and
- limits the number of satellite emergency departments that a health care organization may operate.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

26B-2-203, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 305

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26B-2-203** is amended to read:

**26B-2-203 . Services required -- General acute hospitals -- Specialty hospitals --
Home health agencies -- Satellite emergency departments.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Satellite emergency department" means a satellite operation that:

(i) provides emergency care or critical care; or

(ii) holds itself out as providing emergency care or critical care.

(b) "Satellite operation" means a health care treatment facility that:

- (i) is operated or administered by a parent hospital, within the scope of the license under which the parent hospital operates;
- (ii) is located farther than 250 yards from the parent hospital's campus, including areas determined by the department to be part of the parent hospital's campus;
- (iii) is not subject to licensure under this part; and
- (iv) complies with this chapter and any applicable rules the department adopts in accordance with Subsection (9).

~~[(1)]~~ (2) General acute hospitals and specialty hospitals shall remain open and be continuously ready to receive patients 24 hours of every day in a year and have an attending medical staff consisting of one or more physicians licensed to practice medicine and surgery under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act.

~~[(2)]~~ (3) A specialty hospital shall provide on-site all basic services required of a general acute hospital that are needed for the diagnosis, therapy, or rehabilitation offered to or required by patients admitted to or cared for in the facility.

~~[(3)]~~ (4)(a) A home health agency shall provide at least licensed nursing services or therapeutic services directly through the agency employees.

(b) A home health agency may provide additional services itself or under arrangements with another agency, organization, facility, or individual.

~~[(4)]~~ (5) Beginning January 1, 2023, a hospice program shall provide at least one qualified medical provider, as that term is defined in Section 26B-4-201, for the treatment of hospice patients.

(6)(a) A satellite emergency department located in a county of the first or second class shall have available on-site, during operating hours, at minimum:

(i) the equipment and personnel to conduct and use:

(A) CT scans;

(B) x-rays; and

(C) clinical laboratory tests and analyses that are customarily used on-site in emergency medical settings, meeting the standards of care for scope, timeliness, and accuracy that apply in hospital-based emergency departments;

(ii) a physician who is licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, and:

(A) is board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine; or

(B) has at least 10 years experience providing emergency medical services;

- 63 (iii) two registered nurses who:
64 (A) are licensed under Title 58, Chapter 31b, Nurse Practice Act; and
65 (B) have specialized training providing emergency medical services;
66 (iv) a staff member who:
67 (A) is specifically trained, certified, or licensed in respiratory care, sufficient to
68 support the needs of patients in a timely and appropriate manner, as determined
69 by the satellite emergency department's clinical protocols;
70 (B) completes annual training and education in emergency respiratory care; and
71 (C) is in addition to the physician and nurses under Subsections (6)(a)(ii) and (iii);
72 (v) a certified or board-eligible medical laboratory scientist or technologist who is
73 capable of conducting the laboratory tests and analyses described in Subsection
74 (6)(a)(i)(C);
75 (vi) security personnel capable of maintaining the personal safety of patients and
76 providers; and
77 (vii) two units of packed red blood cells suitable for emergency use.
78 (b) A satellite emergency department located in a county of the first or second class shall
79 have available, on-site or on-call to be physically present at the satellite emergency
80 department, during operating hours, at minimum, a certified sonographer and the
81 equipment to conduct and use an ultrasound.
82 (c) A satellite emergency department shall:
83 (i) clearly identify itself as an emergency department, using, at minimum,
84 prominently lighted external signage that includes the word "EMERGENCY" or
85 "ER" in conjunction with the name of the satellite emergency department's parent
86 hospital; and
87 (ii) prominently display, at locations that are readily accessible to and visible by
88 patients outside the entrance to the satellite emergency department and in patient
89 waiting areas, signage that:
90 (A) states "THIS IS AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT"; and
91 (B) unless the satellite emergency department shares a premises and a public
92 entrance with an urgent care center, "THIS IS NOT AN URGENT CARE
93 CENTER. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RATES ARE BILLED FOR
94 SERVICES."
95 (d)(i) A satellite emergency department may not hold itself out to the public as an
96 urgent care center.

(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (6)(d)(i), if a satellite emergency department is located on the same premises as an urgent care center, the signage may also identify the urgent care center.

(7) A satellite emergency department that fails to meet a requirement of Subsections (6)(a) through (d) may not hold itself out as providing critical or emergency care.

(8) A health care organization may not operate a higher number of satellite emergency departments than two times the number of hospital emergency departments the health care organization operates in the state.

(9) The department shall:

(a) adopt and enforce rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to establish the process and applicable fees for initial and renewal applications to operate a satellite emergency department;

(b) assess and collect the application and renewal fees described in Subsection (9)(a); and

(c) deposit any fees collected under Subsection (9)(b) into the General Fund, as a dedicated credit, to be used solely to pay for or offset the department's costs incurred to perform the duties under this Subsection (9).

Section 2. Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.