

Center for Health Care Purchasing Improvement

Issue Brief 2009-1

Maximum Charges for Copies of Patient Records

March 2009

Providers may charge for copies of patient records. Minnesota Statute 144.292, subdivision 6 limits the amount of these charges. Maximum charges are computed by applying annual changes in the regional Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the charges set by the legislature for calendar year 1992. **MDH computes the maximum 2009 charges to be \$1.22 per page and \$16.03 for time spent retrieving and copying the records. The provider may charge the actual cost of reproducing x-rays.** The following table displays the computation of the annual maximum charges:

CPI INDEX			COMPUTATION		MAXIMUM CHARGES		
CPI Year	CPI	% Change in CPI from previous year	Computed Copy Charge	Computed Retrieval Charge	Year	Copy Charge per Page for the Calendar Year	Retrieval Charge for the Calendar Year
1991	130.4	N/A – 1992 charge set in statute	N/A – 1992 charge set in statute	N/A – 1992 charge set in statute	1992	\$0.75	\$10.00
1992	135.0	3.5%	0.75 x 1.035=0.7763	10.00 x 1.035=10.350	1993	\$0.78	\$10.35
The years 1993 – 2006 were deleted from table for space considerations. For a complete list of all charges or to view this document electronically, go to MDH’s website at http://www.health.state.mn.us/ (then search maximum charges)							
2006	196.2	1.6%	1.13 x 1.016 = 1.1480	14.81 x 1.016 = 15.0469	2007	\$1.15	\$15.05
2007	201.2	2.6%	1.15 x 1.026 = 1.1799	15.05 x 1.026 = 15.4413	2008	\$1.18	\$15.44
2008	209.0	3.8%	1.18 x 1.038 = 1.2248	15.44 x 1.038 = 16.0267	2009	\$1.22	\$16.03

Source of CPI Index and percent change: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI, All items 1982-1984=100

The above table is based on Minnesota Statutes section 144.292, subdivision 6:

(a) When a patient requests a copy of the patient's record for purposes of reviewing current medical care, the provider must not charge a fee. (b) When a provider or its representative makes copies of patient records upon a patient's request under this section, the provider or its representative may charge the patient or the patient's representative no more than 75 cents per page, plus \$10 for time spent retrieving and copying the records, unless other law or a rule or contract provide for a lower maximum charge. This limitation does not apply to x-rays. The provider may charge a patient no more than the actual cost of reproducing X-rays, plus no more than \$10 for the time spent retrieving and copying the x-rays. (c) The respective maximum charges of 75 cents per page and \$10 for time provided in this subdivision are in effect for calendar year 1992 and may be adjusted annually each calendar year as provided in this subdivision. The permissible maximum charges shall change each year by an amount that reflects the change, as compared to the previous year, in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, Minneapolis-St. Paul (CPI-U), published by the department of labor. (d) A

provider or its representative must not charge a fee to provide copies of records requested by a patient or the patient's authorized representative if the request for copies of records is for purposes of appealing a denial of social security disability income or social security disability benefits under title II or title XVI of the Social Security Act. For the purpose of further appeals, a patient may receive no more than two medical record updates without charge, but only for medical record information previously not provided. For purposes of this paragraph, a patient's authorized representative does not include units of state government engaged in the adjudication of social security disability claims. [Reprinted with permission from the Revisor of Statutes.]

Minnesota Department of Health
 85 East Seventh Place, Suite 220
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
 (651) 201-5178 or (800) 657-3793
 MN Relay Service TDD: 651-201-5797
www.health.state.mn.us



Upon request, this information will be made available in alternative format; for example, large print, Braille, or cassette tape.