

Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario



Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario

1ST SESSION, 44TH LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
3 CHARLES III, 2025

Bill 7

**An Act to amend the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 and
the Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act, 2023
to address unfair fees charged to patients for health care services**

Co-sponsors:

MPP F. Gélinas

MPP R. Lennox

Ms C. Pasma

Private Members' Bill

1st Reading April 30, 2025

2nd Reading

3rd Reading

Royal Assent



EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill amends the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* in the following ways:

1. Section 3 of the Act is amended to provide that individuals be treated with fairness in addition to sensitivity and respect in their dealings with health professionals.
2. Section 51 of Schedule 2 to the Act is amended to provide that a panel can find a member has committed an act of professional misconduct if the member or another person has charged a patient an unfair fee for a service provided by the member. If the panel makes such a finding, the panel may require the member to reimburse the patient for the amount paid by the patient for the unfair fee as well as direct the Registrar to suspend the member's certificate of registration for three months.
3. Section 84 of Schedule 2 to the Act is amended to provide that the patient relations program of a College must include measures for preventing and dealing with unfair fees charged to patients.
4. Section 95 of Schedule 2 to the Act is amended to add a new regulation-making authority that authorizes the Council to make a regulation defining "unfair fee". The regulation is subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council with prior approval of the Minister.

The Bill amends the *Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act, 2023* in the following ways:

1. Section 13 of the Act is amended to specify that the Director may revoke or suspend a licence in instances where the integrated community health services centre is or will be charging unfair fees to patients.
2. Section 14 of the Act is amended to provide that the Director shall not eliminate services from the list and types of services in respect of which an integrated community health services centre is licensed unless the Director is of the opinion that there is reasonable ground for belief that fees in respect of the eliminated services are being charged, or will be charged, in a manner that is unfair to patients.

**An Act to amend the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 and
the Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act, 2023
to address unfair fees charged to patients for health care services**

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1991

1 Section 3 of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* is amended by striking out “sensitivity and respect” and substituting “sensitivity, fairness and respect”.

2 (1) Subsection 51 (1) of Schedule 2 to the Act is amended by striking out “or” at the end of clause (b.1) and by adding the following clause:

(b.2) the member or another person has charged a patient an unfair fee, as defined in the regulations, for a service provided by the member; or

(2) Subsection 51 (2) of Schedule 2 to the Act is amended by adding the following paragraph:

5.1.1 If the act of professional misconduct was the charging of an unfair fee to a patient,

- i. requiring the member to reimburse the patient for the amount paid by that patient for the unfair fee, and
- ii. directing the Registrar to suspend the member’s certificate of registration for a period of three months.

(3) Section 84 of Schedule 2 to the Act is amended by adding the following subsection:

Measures for charging unfair fees to patients

(1.1) The patient relations program must include measures for preventing and dealing with the charging of unfair fees to patients.

(4) Subsection 95 (1) of Schedule 2 to the Act is amended by adding the following clause:

(i.1) defining unfair fee for the purposes of clause 51 (1) (b.2);

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES CENTRES ACT, 2023

3 Clause 13 (1) (e) of the *Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act, 2023* is repealed and the following substituted:

(e) the Director is of the opinion that there is reasonable ground for belief that the integrated community health services centre is not being or will not be operated in accordance with the law and with honesty and integrity, including that the facility is or will be charging unfair fees to patients;

4 Section 14 of the Act is amended by adding the following subsection:

Same

(1.1) Despite subsection (1), the Director shall not amend the limitations of a licence to eliminate services from the list of services and types of services in respect of which an integrated community health services centre is licensed unless the Director is of the opinion that there is reasonable ground for belief that fees in respect of the eliminated services are being charged, or will be charged, in a manner that is unfair to patients.

COMMENCEMENT AND SHORT TITLE

Commencement

5 This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

Short title

6 The short title of this Act is the *Health Care is Not for Sale Act (Addressing Unfair Fees Charged to Patients), 2025*.