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## Joint Agencies Host No Surprises Act Overview with CMS

**Thursday, May 19, 2022 (Anchorage, AK)** – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in conjunction with the Division of Insurance and Division of Retirement and Benefits, hosted a webinar on the federal No Surprises Act on May 10th for Alaska providers and payers.

The No Surprises Act is a new rule that protects consumers covered under group and individual health plans from surprise medical bills. It was signed into law on December 27, 2020, as part of the \$1.4 trillion Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. While Alaska has a longstanding regulation, “the 80<sup>th</sup> Percentile Rule,” that provides some state protections from balance bills, the No Surprises Act goes further by establishing new federal protections against most surprise medical bills and helps to remove consumers from payment disputes between a provider or health care facility and their health plan.

The Division of Insurance will assume certain enforcement duties, including compliance for providers and insurers, of the No Surprises Act. Providers will be required to disclose information to consumers regarding surprise billing protections, and provide good faith estimates of expected charges in advance of scheduled services for uninsured or self-pay individuals.

“The Division of Insurance is grateful to CMS for organizing this informative session and intends to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that the rollout of this complex law is smooth and that consumer protection remains our priority,” said Division Director Lori Wing-Heier.

For additional information about the division, visit <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/ins/>.  
For additional information about the No Surprises Act, visit <https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises>.

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