



No Surprises Act Effective January 2022

The federal No Surprises Act was signed on December 27, 2020 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Many provisions of the No Surprises Act will become effective on January 1, 2022.

California has robust existing standards in many areas addressed in the federal Act and it can be difficult to determine where the gaps exist and where updates may be required. QMetrics has developed a Legislative Implementation Guide with a side-by-side comparison of the Federal and California requirements to assist California plans with implementation planning.

Some, but not all, of the areas addressed in the No Surprises Act include:

- Prohibitions on balance billing for out-of-network emergency care, out-of-network providers at in-network facilities, and air ambulance bills

- Determination of “out-of-network rates” to be paid by health plans
- Independent Dispute Resolution Process requirements
- Member ID Requirements: inclusion of in-network and out-of-network deductibles and out-of-pocket limitations
- Advance EOBs
- Continuity of Care
- Maintenance of price comparison tool
- Provider Directory requirements
- Provider contract gag clause prohibitions
- Broker compensation disclosures
- Mental Health Parity disclosures
- Reporting on pharmacy benefits and drug costs

Contact us for more information on how we can assist you in navigating this complex new law and how our No Surprises Act Legislative Implementation Guide can help you.