

PRACTICE REFERENCE

Good Faith Estimate: what it is

An educational explainer on the Good Faith Estimate that many uninsured and self-pay patients are entitled to under the federal No Surprises Act. Confirm current CMS guidance.

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What it is

Under the No Surprises Act, clinicians generally must give uninsured or self-pay patients a written, good-faith estimate of expected charges for scheduled care.

What it usually includes

- The service and diagnosis codes expected
- The expected charge for each item or service
- A clear total
- Timing tied to when care is scheduled or requested

The dispute process

If the final bill is substantially higher than the estimate, patients may have a right to dispute it. Keep your estimates realistic and documented, and confirm the current thresholds and timelines with CMS.

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