

Aggressive Billing Practices

There's a big Internet dustup about a California plastic surgeon who is being sued by the state to stop her aggressive billing practices. The state medical board is investigating her for possible illegal balance billing and may remove her medical license.

The LA Times ran a story documenting the plight of a patient who cut off the tip of a finger. In the emergency department, he requested the services of a plastic surgeon. The doctor saw the patient and had him sign an agreement to pay for what she was about to do.

It is not clear exactly what was done in this case, but apparently, all the work took place in the ED. The surgeon billed the patient \$12,630.00 and received \$3,500.00 from the patient's insurance carrier, which she refused to accept. She billed the patient for the entire amount and sued him when he didn't pay. She also started a process to force the patient to sell his house in order to pay her.

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<http://www.surgicalproductsmag.com/articles/2012/08/aggressive-billing-practices>

Links:

[1] <http://skepticalscalpel.blogspot.com/2012/08/plastic-surgeon-in-trouble-for.html>