
HOUSE BILL 1517

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Jenkins, Hinkle, Green, Harris, and Stanford

Read first time 01/25/11. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring comparable coverage for patients who
2 require orally administered anticancer medication; adding a new section
3 to chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.20 RCW; adding
4 a new section to chapter 48.21 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
5 48.44 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.46 RCW; and creating a
6 new section.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Washington state legislature finds that
9 for cancer patients, there is an inequity in how much they have to pay
10 toward the cost of an oral medication and how much they have to pay for
11 an intravenous product that is administered in a physician's office or
12 clinic. The legislature further finds that when these inequities
13 exist, patients' access to medically necessary, appropriate treatment
14 is often unfairly restricted. The legislature also acknowledges that
15 oral chemotherapy is the only treatment for some types of cancer where
16 there is no intravenous alternative. The legislature declares that in
17 order to reduce the out-of-pocket costs for cancer patients whose
18 diagnosis requires treatment through orally administered anticancer

1 medication, the cost-sharing responsibilities for these patients must
2 be equitable to those of patients receiving intravenously administered
3 anticancer medication.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Each health plan offered to public employees and their covered
7 dependents under this chapter that is not subject to the provision of
8 Title 48 RCW and is issued or renewed beginning January 1, 2012, and
9 provides coverage for cancer chemotherapy treatment must provide
10 coverage for prescribed, orally administered anticancer medication that
11 is used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells on a basis
12 comparable to intravenously administered or injected cancer
13 medications.

14 (2) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to prohibit a health
15 plan from requiring prior authorization or imposing other appropriate
16 utilization controls in approving coverage for any chemotherapy.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.20 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) Each health plan issued or renewed beginning January 1, 2012,
20 that provides coverage for cancer chemotherapy treatment must provide
21 coverage for prescribed, orally administered anticancer medication that
22 is used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells on a basis
23 comparable to intravenously administered or injected cancer
24 medications.

25 (2) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to prohibit a health
26 plan from requiring prior authorization or imposing other appropriate
27 utilization controls in approving coverage for any chemotherapy.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 48.21 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) Each health plan issued or renewed beginning January 1, 2012,
31 that provides coverage for cancer chemotherapy treatment must provide
32 coverage for prescribed, orally administered anticancer medication that
33 is used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells on a basis
34 comparable to intravenously administered or injected cancer
35 medications.

1 (2) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to prohibit a health
2 plan from requiring prior authorization or imposing other appropriate
3 utilization controls in approving coverage for any chemotherapy.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 48.44 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Each health plan issued or renewed beginning January 1, 2012,
7 that provides coverage for cancer chemotherapy treatment must provide
8 coverage for prescribed, orally administered anticancer medication that
9 is used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells on a basis
10 comparable to intravenously administered or injected cancer
11 medications.

12 (2) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to prohibit a health
13 plan from requiring prior authorization or imposing other appropriate
14 utilization controls in approving coverage for any chemotherapy.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 48.46 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) Each health plan issued or renewed beginning January 1, 2012,
18 that provides coverage for cancer chemotherapy treatment must provide
19 coverage for prescribed, orally administered anticancer medication that
20 is used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells on a basis
21 comparable to intravenously administered or injected cancer
22 medications.

23 (2) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to prohibit a health
24 plan from requiring prior authorization or imposing other appropriate
25 utilization controls in approving coverage for any chemotherapy.

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