

House Bill 2737

Sponsored by Representative BUCKLEY

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to adopt standards and procedures to certify specified mental health providers to qualify for insurance reimbursement. Authorizes authority to adopt fee for such certification and for applying for such certification.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to certification of mental health providers; amending ORS 743A.168; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 743A.168 is amended to read:

6 743A.168. A group health insurance policy providing coverage for hospital or medical expenses
7 shall provide coverage for expenses arising from treatment for chemical dependency, including
8 alcoholism, and for mental or nervous conditions at the same level as, and subject to limitations no
9 more restrictive than, those imposed on coverage or reimbursement of expenses arising from treat-
10 ment for other medical conditions. The following apply to coverage for chemical dependency and for
11 mental or nervous conditions:

12 (1) As used in this section:

13 (a) "Chemical dependency" means the addictive relationship with any drug or alcohol charac-
14 terized by a physical or psychological relationship, or both, that interferes on a recurring basis with
15 the individual's social, psychological or physical adjustment to common problems. For purposes of
16 this section, "chemical dependency" does not include addiction to, or dependency on, tobacco, to-
17 bacco products or foods.

18 (b) "Facility" means a corporate or governmental entity or other provider of services for the
19 treatment of chemical dependency or for the treatment of mental or nervous conditions.

20 (c) "Group health insurer" means an insurer, a health maintenance organization or a health care
21 service contractor.

22 (d) "Program" means a particular type or level of service that is organizationally distinct within
23 a facility.

24 (e) "Provider" means a person that has met the credentialing requirement of a group health
25 insurer, is otherwise eligible to receive reimbursement for coverage under the policy and is:

26 (A) A health [*care*] facility **as defined in ORS 430.010**;

27 (B) A residential [*program or*] facility **as defined in ORS 430.010**;

28 (C) A day or partial hospitalization program **as defined in ORS 430.010**;

29 (D) An outpatient service **as defined in ORS 430.010**; [*or*]

30 (E) An individual behavioral health or medical professional [*authorized for reimbursement under*

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 *Oregon law.*] **licensed or certified under Oregon law; or**

2 **(F) A provider organization certified by the Oregon Health Authority under subsection**
3 **(13) of this section.**

4 (2) The coverage may be made subject to provisions of the policy that apply to other benefits
5 under the policy, including but not limited to provisions relating to deductibles and coinsurance.
6 Deductibles and coinsurance for treatment in health [*care*] facilities or residential [*programs or*] fa-
7 cilities may not be greater than those under the policy for expenses of hospitalization in the treat-
8 ment of other medical conditions. Deductibles and coinsurance for outpatient treatment may not
9 be greater than those under the policy for expenses of outpatient treatment of other medical condi-
10 tions.

11 (3) The coverage may not be made subject to treatment limitations, limits on total payments for
12 treatment, limits on duration of treatment or financial requirements unless similar limitations or
13 requirements are imposed on coverage of other medical conditions. The coverage of eligible expenses
14 may be limited to treatment that is medically necessary as determined under the policy for other
15 medical conditions.

16 (4)(a) Nothing in this section requires coverage for:

17 (A) Educational or correctional services or sheltered living provided by a school or halfway
18 house;

19 (B) A long-term residential mental health program that lasts longer than 45 days;

20 (C) Psychoanalysis or psychotherapy received as part of an educational or training program,
21 regardless of diagnosis or symptoms that may be present;

22 (D) A court-ordered sex offender treatment program; or

23 (E) A screening interview or treatment program under ORS 813.021.

24 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection, an insured may receive covered outpa-
25 tient services under the terms of the insured's policy while the insured is living temporarily in a
26 sheltered living situation.

27 (5) A provider is eligible for reimbursement under this section if:

28 (a) The provider is approved **or certified** by the Department of Human Services **or the Oregon**
29 **Health Authority**;

30 (b) The provider is accredited for the particular level of care for which reimbursement is being
31 requested by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals or the Commission on Accredi-
32 tation of Rehabilitation Facilities;

33 (c) The patient is staying overnight at the facility and is involved in a structured program at
34 least eight hours per day, five days per week; or

35 (d) The provider is providing a covered benefit under the policy.

36 (6) Payments may not be made under this section for support groups.

37 (7) If specified in the policy, outpatient coverage may include follow-up in-home service or out-
38 patient services. The policy may limit coverage for in-home service to persons who are homebound
39 under the care of a physician.

40 (8) Nothing in this section prohibits a group health insurer from managing the provision of
41 benefits through common methods, including but not limited to selectively contracted panels, health
42 plan benefit differential designs, preadmission screening, prior authorization of services, utilization
43 review or other mechanisms designed to limit eligible expenses to those described in subsection (3)
44 of this section.

45 (9) The Legislative Assembly has found that health care cost containment is necessary and in-

1 tends to encourage insurance policies designed to achieve cost containment by ensuring that re-
2 imbursement is limited to appropriate utilization under criteria incorporated into such policies,
3 either directly or by reference.

4 (10)(a) Subject to the patient or client confidentiality provisions of ORS 40.235 relating to phy-
5 sicians, ORS 40.240 relating to nurse practitioners, ORS 40.230 relating to psychologists, ORS 40.250
6 and 675.580 relating to licensed clinical social workers and ORS 40.262 relating to licensed profes-
7 sional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists, a group health insurer may provide
8 for review for level of treatment of admissions and continued stays for treatment in health [*care*]
9 facilities, residential [*programs or*] facilities, day or partial hospitalization programs and outpatient
10 services by either group health insurer staff or personnel under contract to the group health insurer,
11 or by a utilization review contractor, who shall have the authority to certify for or deny level of
12 payment.

13 (b) Review shall be made according to criteria made available to providers in advance upon re-
14 quest.

15 (c) Review shall be performed by or under the direction of a medical or osteopathic physician
16 licensed by the Oregon Medical Board, a psychologist licensed by the State Board of Psychologist
17 Examiners, a clinical social worker licensed by the State Board of Licensed Social Workers or a
18 professional counselor or marriage and family therapist licensed by the Oregon Board of Licensed
19 Professional Counselors and Therapists, in accordance with standards of the National Committee for
20 Quality Assurance or Medicare review standards of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Ser-
21 vices.

22 (d) Review may involve prior approval, concurrent review of the continuation of treatment,
23 post-treatment review or any combination of these. However, if prior approval is required, provision
24 shall be made to allow for payment of urgent or emergency admissions, subject to subsequent re-
25 view. If prior approval is not required, group health insurers shall permit providers, policyholders
26 or persons acting on their behalf to make advance inquiries regarding the appropriateness of a
27 particular admission to a treatment program. Group health insurers shall provide a timely response
28 to such inquiries. Noncontracting providers must cooperate with these procedures to the same ex-
29 tent as contracting providers to be eligible for reimbursement.

30 (11) Health maintenance organizations may limit the receipt of covered services by enrollees to
31 services provided by or upon referral by providers contracting with the health maintenance organ-
32 ization. Health maintenance organizations and health care service contractors may create substan-
33 tive plan benefit and reimbursement differentials at the same level as, and subject to limitations no
34 more restrictive than, those imposed on coverage or reimbursement of expenses arising out of other
35 medical conditions and apply them to contracting and noncontracting providers.

36 (12) Nothing in this section prevents a group health insurer from contracting with providers of
37 health care services to furnish services to policyholders or certificate holders according to ORS
38 743.531 or 750.005, subject to the following conditions:

39 (a) A group health insurer is not required to contract with all eligible providers.

40 (b) An insurer or health care service contractor shall, subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this
41 section, pay benefits toward the covered charges of noncontracting providers of services for the
42 treatment of chemical dependency or mental or nervous conditions. The insured shall, subject to
43 subsections (2) and (3) of this section, have the right to use the services of a noncontracting provider
44 of services for the treatment of chemical dependency or mental or nervous conditions, whether or
45 not the services for chemical dependency or mental or nervous conditions are provided by con-

1 tracting or noncontracting providers.

2 **(13) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a process for the certification of an**
3 **organization described in subsection (1)(e)(F) of this section that:**

4 **(a) Is not otherwise subject to licensing or certification by the authority; and**

5 **(b) Does not contract with the authority, a subcontractor of the authority or a commu-**
6 **nity mental health program.**

7 **(14) The Oregon Health Authority shall adopt by rule standards for the certification**
8 **provided under subsection (13) of this section to ensure that a certified provider offers a**
9 **distinct and specialized program for the treatment of chemical dependency or for mental or**
10 **nervous conditions.**

11 **(15) The Oregon Health Authority may adopt by rule an application fee or a certification**
12 **fee, or both, to be imposed on any provider organization that applies for certification under**
13 **subsection (13) of this section. Any fees collected shall be paid into the Oregon Health Au-**
14 **thority Fund established in ORS 413.101 and shall be used only for carrying out the provisions**
15 **of subsection (13) of this section.**

16 *[(13)]* **(16)** The intent of the Legislative Assembly in adopting this section is to reserve benefits
17 for different types of care to encourage cost effective care and to ensure continuing access to levels
18 of care most appropriate for the insured's condition and progress.

19 *[(14)]* **(17)** The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services **and the Oregon**
20 **Health Authority**, after notice and hearing, may adopt reasonable rules not inconsistent with this
21 section that are considered necessary for the proper administration of *[these provisions]* **this**
22 **section.**

23 **SECTION 2. This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
24 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect**
25 **on its passage.**

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