

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact (A version)**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact (A version)****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/18, 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires insurers that cover prescription contraceptives to reimburse health care provider or dispensing entity for 3-month supply of contraceptives and for a 12-month period after the initial 3-month period.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost precedent for 12-month supply of any prescription
- Continuity of specific contraceptive product
- Churning of enrollees on health insurance plans
- Ability to monitor for adverse side effects
- Impact of dispensing on reducing patient visits and encouraging continuation of contraceptives
- Contraceptives role in prevention of unintended pregnancies
- Storage of contraceptives
- Traveling for multiple refills for patients in rural communities
- Administrative burden to providers, pharmacists and patients

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -A3 Amendment: Modifies when insurers cover prescription contraceptives. Requires reimbursing health care provider or dispensing entity for dispensing contraceptives for a 6-month period if insured has been on drug for at least 6 months, prescription specifies supply of 6 months or more, insured obtains new prescription at least once during 12-month period, and copayment for 6-month supply is no more than twice the amount of copayment for 90 day supply.

BACKGROUND: Oral contraceptives (the pill) are hormonally active pills which are usually taken by women on a daily basis. They contain either two hormones combined (progestin and estrogen) or a single hormone (progestin). Combined oral contraceptives suppress ovulation. In 2013, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention issued recommendations for contraceptive use that included unnecessary barriers from providers such as limited dispensing. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists issued an opinion encouraging members to follow the CDC's guidelines.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.