

SB 740 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/18, 5/21, 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that health benefit plans that provide radiation therapy for the treatment of cancer must provide coverage of proton beam therapy for the treatment of cancer on a basis no less favorable than the coverage of radiation therapy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Treatment modalities to treat cancer
- Coverage of proton beam by Oregon insurers; Medicare, Medicaid, commercial, and employer-sponsored health plans
- Existing coverage of proton beam therapy as an essential health benefit in accordance with the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) vs. expansion or new mandate
- Review of proton beam therapy for medical effectiveness by the Health Evidence Review Commission
- No medical center in Oregon currently offers proton beam therapy
- Travel related costs to access treatment centers in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Authorizes carriers to utilize prior authorization and other utilization management procedures in coverage of proton beam therapy that already apply to radiation therapy.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: May have expenditure impact, statement not yet issued.

BACKGROUND:

Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses high-energy beams to treat tumors. Proton beams can be delivered with more control than forms of radiation, allowing the safe delivery of higher doses to tumors. The therapy has been used to treat complex tumors, such as those in the prostate, brain, eye, and cancers in children.

Senate Bill 740-A requires health benefit plans that cover radiation therapy for cancer treatment to also cover proton beam therapy.

1st Chamber vote (Senate): Ayes, 30.