

SB 549 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/30, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure prohibits the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) or a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) from requiring prior authorization to repair complex rehabilitation technology.

DETAILED SUMMARY:

- Defines “complex rehabilitation technology” as durable medical equipment that is configured to meet a person’s unique medical, physical, and functional needs (e.g., wheelchairs, adaptive seating, strollers, gait trainers).
- Prohibits prior authorization requirements when: 1) the equipment is necessary to promote mobility or prevent hospitalization; 2) the equipment is primarily used to serve a medical purpose; and 3) repair requires service by a qualified provider.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Revenue impact: Not yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1

- Requires OHA and CCOs to make a determination on requests for prior authorization for repair within 72 hours.
- Requires repairs to be completed within 14 days once the request is approved.

BACKGROUND:

For Oregonians enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), covered services and benefits may require prior authorization from either a coordinated care organization (CCO) or, for fee-for-service enrollees, from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Prior authorization requirements vary among CCOs. For fee-for-service enrollees, requirements are described in OHA's Prior Authorization Handbook ([link](#)). To obtain prior authorization from OHA, providers must submit a request through the "interChange" system. The request must include demographic information, a description of the service type (in this case, equipment), and any special circumstances or considerations. Providers must also enter a service or procedure code, requested start and end dates for the authorization, and specific details about the requested equipment. If needed, providers can request immediate (24-hour) or urgent (72-hour) processing and must include the reason for expedited review. The request may then be approved or denied.

SB 549 allows OHP members to obtain repairs for certain durable medical equipment without prior authorization from their CCO or OHA.