

2 SSB 5587 - S AMD - 134
3 By Senators Benton and Roach

4 RULED OUTSIDE THE SCOPE AND OBJECT 3/11/99

5 On page 9, after line 14, insert the following:

6 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) For purposes of this section,
7 chiropractic health care services includes all services included in the
8 chiropractic scope of practice under chapter 18.25 RCW.

9 (2) Health care carriers shall ensure that enrolled patients have
10 direct access to timely and appropriate covered chiropractic services
11 from the participating chiropractor of their choice in accordance with
12 subsection (3) of this section.

13 (3)(a) Health care carrier policies, plans, and programs written,
14 amended, or renewed after January 1, 2000, shall provide enrolled
15 patients with direct access to the participating chiropractor of their
16 choice for covered chiropractic health care services without the
17 necessity of prior referral from another type of health care
18 practitioner.

19 (b) Nothing in this section shall prevent health care carriers from
20 restricting patients to seeing only health care practitioners who have
21 signed participating provider agreements with the health carrier or
22 from utilizing other managed care and cost containment techniques and
23 processes."

24 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
25 internal references accordingly.

26 On page 9, line 19, after "through" strike "6" and insert "7"

EFFECT: Permits patients to have direct access to chiropractic care within the coverage of the particular plan but without the intervening involvement of an MD gatekeeper. Specifies that the plan may restrict patients to seeing providers who have signed participating provider agreements and that health carriers may utilize other managed care and cost containment techniques and processes. Does not require that a plan provide chiropractic coverage.

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