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**SB 5436** - H AMD **443**

By Representative Senn

**ADOPTED 04/06/2017**

On page 8, after line 21, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 71.24 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Upon initiation or renewal of a contract with the department, a behavioral health organization shall reimburse a provider for a behavioral health service provided to a covered person who is under eighteen years old through telemedicine or store and forward technology if:

(a) The behavioral health organization in which the covered person is enrolled provides coverage of the behavioral health service when provided in person by the provider; and

(b) The behavioral health service is medically necessary.

(2)(a) If the service is provided through store and forward technology there must be an associated visit between the covered person and the referring provider. Nothing in this section prohibits the use of telemedicine for the associated office visit.

(b) For purposes of this section, reimbursement of store and forward technology is available only for those services specified in the negotiated agreement between the behavioral health organization and provider.

(3) An originating site for a telemedicine behavioral health service subject to subsection (1) of this section means an originating site as defined in rule by the department or the health care authority.

(4) Any originating site, other than a home, under subsection (3) of this section may charge a facility fee for infrastructure and preparation of the patient. Reimbursement must be subject to a negotiated agreement between the originating site and the behavioral health organization. A distant site or any other site not identified in subsection (3) of this section may not charge a facility fee.

(5) A behavioral health organization may not distinguish between originating sites that are rural and urban in providing the coverage required in subsection (1) of this section.

(6) A behavioral health organization may subject coverage of a telemedicine or store and forward technology behavioral health service under subsection (1) of this section to all terms and conditions of the behavioral health organization in which the covered person is enrolled, including, but not limited to, utilization review, prior authorization, deductible, copayment, or coinsurance requirements that are applicable to coverage of a comparable behavioral health care service provided in person.

(7) This section does not require a behavioral health organization to reimburse:

(a) An originating site for professional fees;

(b) A provider for a behavioral health service that is not a covered benefit under the behavioral health organization; or

(c) An originating site or provider when the site or provider is not a contracted provider with the behavioral health organization.

(8) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Distant site" means the site at which a physician or other licensed provider, delivering a professional service, is physically located at the time the service is provided through telemedicine;

(b) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41, 71.12, or 72.23 RCW;

(c) "Originating site" means the physical location of a patient receiving behavioral health services through telemedicine;

(d) "Provider" has the same meaning as in RCW 48.43.005;

(e) "Store and forward technology" means use of an asynchronous transmission of a covered person's medical or behavioral health information from an originating site to the provider at a distant site which results in medical or behavioral health diagnosis and management of the covered person, and does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, or email; and

(f) "Telemedicine" means the delivery of health care or behavioral health services through the use of interactive audio and video technology, permitting real-time communication between the patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. For purposes of this section only, "telemedicine" does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, or email.

(9) The department must, in consultation with the health care authority, adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 71.24 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Upon initiation or renewal of a contract with the authority, a behavioral health organization shall reimburse a provider for a behavioral health service provided to a covered person who is under eighteen years old through telemedicine or store and forward technology if:

(a) The behavioral health organization in which the covered person is enrolled provides coverage of the behavioral health service when provided in person by the provider; and

(b) The behavioral health service is medically necessary.

(2)(a) If the service is provided through store and forward technology there must be an associated visit between the covered person and the referring provider. Nothing in this section prohibits the use of telemedicine for the associated office visit.

(b) For purposes of this section, reimbursement of store and forward technology is available only for those services specified in the negotiated agreement between the behavioral health organization and provider.

(3) An originating site for a telemedicine behavioral health service subject to subsection (1) of this section means an originating site as defined in rule by the department or the authority.

(4) Any originating site, other than a home, under subsection (3) of this section may charge a facility fee for infrastructure and preparation of the patient. Reimbursement must be subject to a negotiated agreement between the originating site and the behavioral health organization. A distant site or any other site not identified in subsection (3) of this section may not charge a facility fee.

(5) A behavioral health organization may not distinguish between originating sites that are rural and urban in providing the coverage required in subsection (1) of this section.

(6) A behavioral health organization may subject coverage of a telemedicine or store and forward technology behavioral health service under subsection (1) of this section to all terms and conditions of the behavioral health organization in which the covered person is enrolled, including, but not limited to, utilization review, prior authorization, deductible, copayment, or coinsurance requirements that are applicable to coverage of a comparable behavioral health care service provided in person.

(7) This section does not require a behavioral health organization to reimburse:

(a) An originating site for professional fees;

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(8) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Distant site" means the site at which a physician or other licensed provider, delivering a professional service, is physically located at the time the service is provided through telemedicine;

(b) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41, 71.12, or 72.23 RCW;

(c) "Originating site" means the physical location of a patient receiving behavioral health services through telemedicine;

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(f) "Telemedicine" means the delivery of health care or behavioral health services through the use of interactive audio and video technology, permitting real-time communication between the patient at the originating site and the provider, for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment. For purposes of this section only, "telemedicine" does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile, or email.

(9) The authority must adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this section."

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

On page 8, line 22, after "**Sec. 4.**" insert "(1)"

On page 8, after line 23, insert the following:

"(2) Section 4 of this act of this act takes effect January 1, 2018, but only if neither Substitute House Bill No. 1388 (including any later amendments or substitutes) nor Substitute Senate Bill No. 5259 (including any later amendments or substitutes) is signed into law by the governor by the effective date of this section.

(3) Section 5 of this act takes effect January 1, 2018, only if Substitute House Bill No. 1388 (including any later amendments or substitutes) or Substitute Senate Bill No. 5259 (including any later amendments or substitutes) is signed into law by the governor by the effective date of this section."

Correct the title.

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|  | EFFECT: Requires a behavioral health organization (BHO) to reimburse a provider for covered, medically necessary services provided to a covered person under the age of 18 through telemedicine or store and forward technology. Requires reimbursement for store and forward services only if the services are specified in a negotiated agreement between the BHO and the provider and there is an associated visit, which may be provided through telemedicine. Allows originating sites, other than a home, to charge a facility fee. Prohibits a BHO from distinguishing between urban and rural originating sites. Allows a BHO to subject coverage for telemedicine or store and forward services to all terms and conditions applicable to in-person services. Provides for consistent agency designations in the event that either HB 1388 or SB 5259, relating to transferring responsibility for behavioral health services from the Department of Social and Health Services to the Health Care Authority and the Department of Health, is enacted. |

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