
HOUSE BILL 2890

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Moeller, Chase, Clibborn, Lovick, McCoy, Campbell, Simpson, G. and McDermott

Read first time 01/22/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants;
2 adding a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 48.20 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.21 RCW; adding a
4 new section to chapter 48.44 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
5 48.46 RCW.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 All state-purchased health care that provides coverage for
10 prostheses must include coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants
11 if the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as
12 authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission under
13 chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW
14 recommends the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

15 This section does not prevent the application of standard health
16 plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or
17 copayment provisions or limit the authority of the state health care
18 authority to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for

1 the delivery of prostheses. This section does not apply to medicare
2 supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified
3 disease or other limited benefits.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.20 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 An insurer that offers to any individual a health benefit plan that
7 provides coverage for prostheses must include coverage for hearing aids
8 and cochlear implants if the patient's physician or advanced registered
9 nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance
10 commission under chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant under chapter
11 18.71A RCW recommends the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

12 This section does not prevent the application of standard health
13 plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or
14 copayment provisions or limit the authority of the state health care
15 authority to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for
16 the delivery of prostheses. This section does not apply to medicare
17 supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified
18 disease or other limited benefits.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.21 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 A group insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract
22 that provides coverage for prostheses must include coverage for hearing
23 aids and cochlear implants if the patient's physician or advanced
24 registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality
25 assurance commission under chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant
26 under chapter 18.71A RCW recommends the hearing aid or cochlear
27 implant.

28 This section does not prevent the application of standard health
29 plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or
30 copayment provisions or limit the authority of the state health care
31 authority to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for
32 the delivery of prostheses. This section does not apply to medicare
33 supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified
34 disease or other limited benefits.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 48.44 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 A health service contractor that provides coverage for prostheses
4 must include coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants if the
5 patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as
6 authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission under
7 chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW
8 recommends the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

9 This section does not prevent the application of standard health
10 plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or
11 copayment provisions or limit the authority of the state health care
12 authority to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for
13 the delivery of prostheses. This section does not apply to medicare
14 supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified
15 disease or other limited benefits.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 48.46 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 A health maintenance organization that provides coverage for
19 prostheses must include coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants
20 if the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as
21 authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission under
22 chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW
23 recommends the hearing aid or cochlear implants.

24 This section does not prevent the application of standard health
25 plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or
26 copayment provisions or limit the authority of the state health care
27 authority to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for
28 the delivery of prostheses. This section does not apply to medicare
29 supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified
30 disease or other limited benefits.

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