
SENATE BILL 5889

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Das, Lovelett, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Nguyen, Nobles, Saldaña, Trudeau, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/18/22. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to insurance coverage for an annual mental health
2 wellness exam; amending RCW 41.05.017; adding a new section to
3 chapter 48.43 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) For health plans issued or renewed on or after January 1,
8 2023, a health carrier shall provide coverage without prior
9 authorization for an annual mental health wellness exam of up to 60
10 minutes provided by a qualified mental health care provider.

11 (2) A mental health wellness exam may include, but is not limited
12 to, a behavioral health screening, education and consultation on
13 healthy lifestyle changes, referrals for ongoing treatment, and
14 mental health services and supports.

15 (3) For the purposes of this section, a "qualified mental health
16 care provider" means:

17 (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathic
18 physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW who has a board
19 certification in psychiatry or other behavioral health care area;

20 (b) A physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW with
21 training in psychiatry or mental health;

1 (c) An advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under
2 chapter 18.79 RCW with training in psychiatric nursing;

3 (d) A psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW; or

4 (e) A social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental
5 health counselor licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.05.017 and 2021 c 280 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Each health plan that provides medical insurance offered under
9 this chapter, including plans created by insuring entities, plans not
10 subject to the provisions of Title 48 RCW, and plans created under
11 RCW 41.05.140, are subject to the provisions of RCW 48.43.500,
12 70.02.045, 48.43.505 through 48.43.535, 48.43.537, 48.43.545,
13 48.43.550, 70.02.110, 70.02.900, 48.43.190, 48.43.083, 48.43.0128,
14 section 1 of this act, and chapter 48.49 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The authority shall provide coverage under this chapter
18 without prior authorization for an annual mental health wellness exam
19 of up to 60 minutes provided by a qualified mental health care
20 provider.

21 (2) A mental health wellness exam may include, but is not limited
22 to, a behavioral health screening, education and consultation on
23 healthy lifestyle changes, referrals for ongoing treatment, and
24 mental health services and supports.

25 (3) In administering this program, the authority shall seek any
26 available federal financial participation under the medical
27 assistance program, as codified in Title XIX of the federal social
28 security act, the state children's health insurance program, as
29 codified in Title XXI of the federal social security act, and any
30 other federal funding sources that are now available or may become
31 available.

32 (4) For the purposes of this section, a "qualified mental health
33 care provider" means:

34 (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW or osteopathic
35 physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW who has a board
36 certification in psychiatry or other behavioral health care area;

37 (b) A physician assistant license under chapter 18.71A RCW with
38 training in psychiatry or mental health;

- 1 (c) An advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under
2 chapter 18.79 RCW with training in psychiatric nursing;
3 (d) A psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW; or
4 (e) A social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental
5 health counselor licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW.

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