
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1971

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Macri, Doglio, Parshley, Berry, Ramel, Ormsby, Pollet, Scott, and Hill)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing access to prescription hormone
2 therapy to patients of all ages by requiring health plans to provide
3 reimbursement for a 12-month refill of prescription hormone therapy
4 obtained at one time by an enrollee; reenacting and amending RCW
5 41.05.017; and adding a new section to chapter 48.43 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 48.43
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) A health plan issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2026,
10 that includes coverage for prescription hormone therapy must provide
11 reimbursement for a 12-month refill of covered prescription hormone
12 therapy obtained at one time by the enrollee, unless the enrollee
13 requests a smaller supply, the prescribing provider instructs that
14 the enrollee must receive a smaller supply, or the prescription
15 hormone therapy is a controlled substance. The 12-month refill
16 requirement only applies to prescription hormone therapy that is able
17 to be safely stored at room temperature without refrigeration. If the
18 prescription hormone therapy is a controlled substance, the health
19 plan must provide reimbursement for the maximum refill allowed under
20 state and federal law to be obtained at one time by the enrollee. Any
21 dispensing practices required by the health plan must follow clinical

1 guidelines for appropriate prescribing and dispensing to ensure the
2 health of the patient while maximizing access to effective
3 prescription hormone therapy.

4 (2) Nothing in this section prohibits a health plan from limiting
5 refills that may be obtained in the last quarter of the plan year if
6 a 12-month supply of the prescription hormone therapy has already
7 been dispensed during the plan year.

8 (3) Nothing in this section prohibits a prescribing provider from
9 temporarily limiting refills that may be obtained to a 90-day supply
10 at one time if the prescription hormone therapy is experiencing an
11 acute dispensing shortage during the plan year provided limits must
12 be rescinded at first opportunity of a regularly reinstated,
13 sustainable supply.

14 (4) To the extent not otherwise prohibited under this section or
15 state or federal law, health plans may apply drug utilization
16 management strategies to prescription drugs covered under subsection
17 (1) of this section.

18 (5) For purposes of this section, "prescription hormone therapy"
19 means all drugs approved by the United States food and drug
20 administration that are used to medically suppress, increase, or
21 replace hormones that the body is not producing at intended levels.
22 Prescription hormone therapy does not include glucagon-like peptide-1
23 and glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists.

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 41.05.017 and 2024 c 251 s 5 and 2024 c 242 s 10 are
25 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

26 Each health plan that provides medical insurance offered under
27 this chapter, including plans created by insuring entities, plans not
28 subject to the provisions of Title 48 RCW, and plans created under
29 RCW 41.05.140, are subject to the provisions of RCW 48.43.500,
30 70.02.045, 48.43.505 through 48.43.535, 48.43.537, 48.43.545,
31 48.43.550, 70.02.110, 70.02.900, 48.43.190, 48.43.083, 48.43.0128,
32 48.43.780, 48.43.435, 48.43.815, 48.200.020 through 48.200.280,
33 48.200.300 through 48.200.320, 48.43.440, section 1 of this act, and
34 chapter 48.49 RCW.

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