
HOUSE BILL 2196

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Simmons, Low, Leavitt, Paul, Nance, Duerr, Stonier, Couture, Davis, Stuebe, and Lekanoff

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1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to treatment of pediatric
2 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal
3 infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome; and
4 adding a new section to chapter 48.43 RCW.

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

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

8 (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, for
9 health plans other than health plans offered to public employees and
10 dependents under chapter 41.05 RCW issued or renewed on or after
11 January 1, 2027, health carriers shall provide initial coverage of
12 three monthly immunomodulatory courses of intravenous immunoglobulin
13 therapy for the treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric
14 disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric
15 acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, and subsequent courses as
16 deemed medically necessary by the treating provider, when the
17 following conditions are met:

18 (a) Clinically appropriate trials, which may be done
19 concurrently, if two less intensive treatments:

20 (i) Were not effective;

21 (ii) Were not tolerated; or

1 (iii) Did not result in sustained improvement in symptoms, as
2 measured by a lack of clinically meaningful improvement on a
3 validated instrument directed at the patient's primary symptom
4 complex; and

5 (b) The patient's treating provider recommends the treatment.

6 (2) The health carrier may require that the patient be clinically
7 reevaluated at three-month intervals.

8 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a health
9 carrier may not:

10 (a) Deny or delay the coverage required by this section because
11 the enrollee previously received treatment, including the same or
12 similar treatment, for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric
13 disorders associated with streptococcal infections or pediatric
14 acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome or because the enrollee was
15 diagnosed with or received treatment for the condition under a
16 different diagnostic name, including autoimmune encephalopathy;

17 (b) Limit coverage of immunomodulatory courses of intravenous
18 immunoglobulin therapy for the treatment of pediatric autoimmune
19 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections
20 or pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome in a manner that
21 is inconsistent with the treatment guidelines developed by a
22 consortium convened for the purposes of researching, identifying, and
23 publishing best practice standards for diagnosis and treatment of
24 such syndrome or disorders that are accessible for medical
25 professionals and are based on evidence of positive patient outcomes;

26 (c) Require a trial of therapies that treat only neuropsychiatric
27 symptoms before covering immunomodulatory courses of intravenous
28 immunoglobulin therapy for the treatment of pediatric autoimmune
29 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections
30 or pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome;

31 (d) Deny coverage for out-of-state treatment if the service is
32 not available within the state; or

33 (e) Deny coverage based on the age of the patient.

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