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HOUSE BILL 2540

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Dyer, Cody, Skinner, O'Brien, Conway and Murray

Read first time 01/15/98. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to anesthesia and hospital charges for dental care;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; and adding a new section to  
3 chapter 48.43 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 41.05 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            (1)(a) Each health plan offered to public employees and their  
8 covered dependents under this chapter that is not subject to the  
9 provisions of Title 48 RCW and is established or renewed after the  
10 effective date of this section, and that provides benefits for hospital  
11 or medical care shall provide benefits for anesthesia and hospital  
12 charges for dental care for a covered person who: (i) Is a child under  
13 age six; (ii) is severely disabled; or (iii) has a medical condition  
14 requiring hospitalization or general anesthesia for dental care  
15 treatment, provided that such services are delivered upon the  
16 recommendation of the patient's physician. Prior authorization may be  
17 required in the same manner that prior authorization is required for  
18 hospitalization for other covered diseases or conditions.

1 (b) The health plan must also provide coverage for general  
2 anesthesia and treatment rendered by a dentist for a medical condition  
3 covered by the health plan, regardless of whether the services are  
4 provided in a hospital or a dental office.

5 (2) This section does not prevent the application of standard  
6 health plan provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible  
7 or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the authority of  
8 the state health care authority to negotiate rates and contract with  
9 specific providers. This section does not apply to medicare supplement  
10 policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified disease or  
11 other limited benefits.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 (1)(a) Every health carrier that provides coverage for hospital or  
15 medical expenses shall provide coverage for anesthesia and hospital  
16 charges for dental care for a covered person who: (i) Is a child under  
17 age six; (ii) is severely disabled; or (iii) has a medical condition  
18 requiring hospitalization or general anesthesia for dental care  
19 treatment, provided that such services are delivered upon the  
20 recommendation of the patient's physician. Prior authorization may be  
21 required in the same manner that prior authorization is required for  
22 hospitalization for other covered diseases or conditions.

23 (b) Coverage must also include general anesthesia and treatment  
24 rendered by a dentist for a medical condition covered, regardless of  
25 whether the services are provided in a hospital or a dental office.

26 (2) This section does not prevent the application of standard  
27 policy provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or  
28 copayment provisions. This section does not limit the authority of an  
29 insurer to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers. This  
30 section does not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental  
31 contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits.

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