
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1364

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Pflug, Edmonds, Cody, Campbell, Boldt, Doumit, Pennington and Schual-Berke)

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to general anesthesia services; adding a new
2 section to chapter 41.05 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 48.43
3 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) Each employee benefit plan offered to public employees and
8 their covered dependents that provides coverage for hospital, medical,
9 or ambulatory surgery center services must cover hospital and general
10 anesthesia services in conjunction with dental procedures in a hospital
11 or ambulatory surgical center if the covered person:

12 (a) Is under the age of seven with a dental condition and the
13 required procedure cannot be safely and effectively performed in a
14 dental office;

15 (b) Is physically or developmentally disabled and cannot be safely
16 and effectively treated in a dental office as determined by the
17 dentist; or

18 (c) Has at least one medical condition that would create an undue
19 medical risk if treatment is not performed in a hospital or ambulatory

1 surgery center as determined by the patient's physician; such treatment
2 must be approved by the patient's physician.

3 (2) Each employee benefit plan offered to public employees and
4 their covered dependents that provides coverage for dental services
5 must cover general anesthesia services in conjunction with dental
6 procedures if the covered person is:

7 (a) Under the age of seven and the required procedure can be safely
8 and effectively performed in a dental office; or

9 (b) Physically or developmentally disabled and can be safely and
10 effectively treated in a dental office.

11 (3) This section does not:

12 (a) Prevent the application of standard cost-sharing requirements
13 applicable to other covered benefits;

14 (b) Limit the authority in negotiating rates and contracts with
15 specific providers;

16 (c) Apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental contracts
17 covering a specified disease or other limited benefits; or

18 (d) Prevent the requirement that services be provided in a
19 participating health care facility.

20 (4) Prior authorization may be required in a manner similar for
21 hospitalization of other covered conditions.

22 (5) For the purpose of this section, "general anesthesia" means a
23 state of unconsciousness accompanied by a loss of protective reflexes,
24 including the ability to maintain an airway independently and respond
25 purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command.

26 (6) This section applies to employee benefit plans issued or
27 renewed on or after the effective date of this section.

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

30 (1) Each health carrier that provides coverage for hospital,
31 medical, or ambulatory surgery center services must cover hospital and
32 general anesthesia services in conjunction with dental procedures in a
33 hospital or ambulatory surgical center if the covered person:

34 (a) Is under the age of seven with a dental condition and the
35 required procedure cannot be safely and effectively performed in a
36 dental office;

1 (b) Is physically or developmentally disabled and cannot be safely
2 and effectively treated in a dental office as determined by the
3 dentist; or

4 (c) Has at least one medical condition that would create an undue
5 medical risk if treatment is not performed in a hospital or ambulatory
6 surgery center as determined by the patient's physician; such treatment
7 must be approved by the patient's physician.

8 (2) Each health carrier that provides coverage for dental benefits
9 must cover general anesthesia services in conjunction with dental
10 procedures if the covered person is:

11 (a) Under the age of seven and the required procedure can be safely
12 and effectively performed in the dental office; or

13 (b) Physically or developmentally disabled and can safely and
14 effectively be treated in the dental office.

15 (3) This section does not:

16 (a) Prevent the application of standard cost-sharing requirements
17 applicable to other covered benefits;

18 (b) Limit the health carrier in negotiating rates and contracts
19 with specific providers;

20 (c) Apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental contracts
21 covering a specified disease or other limited benefits; or

22 (d) Prevent the requirement that services be provided in a
23 participating health care facility.

24 (4) Prior authorization may be required in a manner similar for
25 hospitalization of other covered conditions.

26 (5) For the purpose of this section, "general anesthesia" means a
27 state of unconsciousness accompanied by a loss of protective reflexes,
28 including the ability to maintain an airway independently and respond
29 purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command.

30 (6) This section applies to health benefit plans and dental plans
31 authorized under RCW 48.44.035 issued or renewed on or after the
32 effective date of this section.

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