

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7151

BILL NUMBER: HB 1791

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 22, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Reimbursement for Emergency Room Physicians.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown T

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) and a managed care organization that has contracted with the Office to reimburse at specified rates for certain emergency room services for CY 2008.

Effective Date: January 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill would require OMPP and a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) to pay 100% of the Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rates for certain federally required screening exams provided by a physician in an emergency department whether or not those services meet the definition of what a prudent layperson would consider to be an emergency. Emergency department physicians who have executed MCO provider contracts would be excluded from this provision. The bill would result in increased costs to the state to the extent that any increased risk-based managed care costs would be passed through to the state in the annually calculated and negotiated capitated rates.

OMPP has reported that within the PCCM program, the physicians' claims as well as the associated hospital emergency department claims are reimbursed. The fiscal impact of this provision will depend on MCO policy decisions and actions taken to control inappropriate use of emergency departments by their enrollees.

This bill provides for physician payments for federally required hospital emergency department screening exams. OMPP reports that the different federal MCO regulation requires the MCOs to pay for screening exams performed on MCO recipients who meet a prudent layperson's definition of what constitutes an emergency condition. Current Indiana statute requires that physicians who are not contracted with the MCO (i.e., out-of-network providers) must be paid at 100% of the Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement for

medically necessary screening services for MCO patients who present at an emergency department with a medical emergency.

This bill would require the payment for all specified screening exams without authorization of the enrollee's primary medical provider. OMPP has estimated that the bill would require the MCOs to pay for all screening or triage at 100% of the fee-for-service reimbursement for the physician and the hospital regardless of whether the patient met the prudent layperson standard for an emergency condition.

Financially, this requirement would impact the three MCOs differently depending on the contracted status of the emergency department physicians if the organization is currently paying triage fees to contracted providers or denying the claims in total. The fiscal impact of this provision will ultimately depend on actions taken by the individual MCOs to control inappropriate use of emergency departments by their enrollees.

Medicaid managed care operates under a federally approved waiver. The regulation waived is the recipient's freedom of choice. MCO recipients select or are assigned a primary care provider to give the individual a "medical care home". The primary care provider is then responsible for that recipient's preventative and routine care. Controlling the cost of inappropriate use of emergency room services is one of the methods that MCOs use to control costs within the network.

Estimates in prior years have indicated the total cost of this provision would be \$1.4 M, or approximately \$532,000 in state General Funds. This information is only presented to reference the range of the prior estimated impact on physician costs. However, this estimate does not consider the expansion of mandatory managed care to include the entire state population of TANF, medicaid and CHIP children, and pregnant women. The newly implemented MCO contracts and their network provider contracts have changed as well; there are now only 3 MCOs, each providing statewide coverage. The new MCO contracts took effect on January 1, 2007. Consequently, OMPP does not have adequate claims data under the new system with which to estimate the potential impact of this bill at this time.

Any denied payments occur within the capitated managed care contracts. The denial of payment does not represent a direct savings or cost to the state since the state pays a capitated amount for each MCO member month regardless of the cost incurred by the MCO for the member's care. The bill would result in increased costs to the state to the extent that increased risk-based managed care costs, which must be actuarially determined, would be passed through to the state in the negotiated rates for the CY 2008 capitation rate. Any fiscal impact related to this bill would be anticipated to result in higher capitated rates only for calendar year 2008.

The Medicaid Program is jointly funded by the state and federal governments. The state share of program expenditures is approximately 38%. Medicaid medical services are matched by the federal match rate (FMAP) in Indiana at approximately 62%. Administrative expenditures with certain exceptions are matched at the federal rate of 50%.

Explanation of State Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures* regarding federal reimbursement in the Medicaid Program.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: OMPP, Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: OMPP, Family and Social Services Administration; IC12-15-12-18 ; and Hoosier Healthwise, State MCO Contract, Attachment D; MCO Scope of Work.

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