

ASSEMBLY, No. 3183

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits payment of more than one copayment, coinsurance or deductible for series of vaccinations used in preventive treatment of rabies under certain health benefits plans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the preventive treatment of rabies under certain
2 health benefits plans and supplementing P.L.1997, c.192
3 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of the “Health Care
9 Quality Act,” P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.), or any other law
10 to the contrary, with respect to a health care provider treating a
11 covered person under a health benefits plan for rabies, which
12 treatment includes a series of vaccinations administered in a
13 hospital emergency room or similar setting to prevent the onset and
14 symptoms of rabies:

15 (1) The covered person shall be responsible for the payment of
16 only one copayment, coinsurance or deductible to the health care
17 provider for that series of vaccinations during any period of 180
18 days following the payment of that copayment, coinsurance or
19 deductible, regardless of the number of follow-up care visits for that
20 series of vaccinations during that period;

21 (2) The health care provider shall not collect more than one
22 copayment, coinsurance or deductible during any period of 180
23 days following the payment of that copayment, coinsurance or
24 deductible, regardless of the number of follow-up care visits for that
25 series of vaccinations during that period; and

26 (3) The health benefits plan shall not require the payment of
27 more than one copayment, coinsurance or deductible by the covered
28 person during any period of 180 days following the payment of that
29 copayment, coinsurance or deductible, regardless of the number of
30 follow-up care visits for that series of vaccinations during that
31 period.

32 b. As used in this section, “health benefits plan” means a health
33 benefits plan which pays or provides hospital or medical expense
34 benefits for covered services and is delivered or issued for delivery
35 by or through a carrier, and any contract for hospital or medical
36 expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits
37 Commission or the School Employees’ Health Benefits
38 Commission, on or after the effective date of this act.
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40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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43 STATEMENT

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45 This bill prohibits payment of more than one copayment,
46 coinsurance or deductible for the series of vaccinations used in
47 preventive rabies treatment.

1 The current standard protocol for this treatment dictates that the
2 administration of this series of vaccinations shall only take place in
3 an emergency room or similar hospital setting because the vaccine
4 is only readily accessible in that setting. Thus, the typically higher
5 emergency room or hospital copayment, coinsurance or deductible
6 under any applicable health benefits plan may be charged each time
7 the person suspected of contracting rabies returns to the hospital to
8 receive another in the series of vaccinations. By permitting only
9 one payment for this series of vaccinations in this way, the often
10 prohibitive cost of an emergency room copayment, coinsurance or
11 deductible is removed as an obstacle to receiving the treatment.

12 The bill provides that the covered person receiving the treatment
13 shall be responsible for the payment of only one copayment,
14 coinsurance or deductible for that series of vaccinations during any
15 period of 180 days following that payment, regardless of the
16 number of follow-up care visits for that series of vaccinations
17 during that period. Similarly, the health care provider shall not
18 collect more than one copayment, coinsurance or deductible during
19 any such period of 180 days and the health benefits plan shall not
20 require payment of more than one copayment, coinsurance or
21 deductible by the covered person during that period.

22 The bill supplements the “Health Care Quality Act,” P.L.1997,
23 c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.) and would apply to health benefits plans
24 issued by health insurance carriers, as defined by that act, the State
25 Employees Health Benefits Program, and the School Employees’
26 Health Benefits Program.