INSURANCE OPIOID REGULATION

2017 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Raymond P. Ward
Senator Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This bill authorizes commercial insurers, the state Medicaid program, workers' compensation insurers, and public employee insurers to implement policies to minimize the risk of prescribing certain controlled substances.

Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
- defines terms;
- authorizes a health insurance policy, a health plan offered to state employees, the Medicaid program, and workers' compensation insurance to establish policies to minimize the risk of opioid addiction and overdose;
- applies to insurance plans entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2017;
- requires a report to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee; and
- sunsets the requirement for prescribing policies on July 1, 2022.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None

Other Special Clauses:
None

Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
63I-1-231, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 50
ENACTS:
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 26-18-21 is enacted to read:


(1) The department may implement a prescribing policy for certain opioid prescriptions that is substantially similar to the prescribing policies required in Section 31A-22-615.

(2) The department may amend the state program and apply for waivers for the state program, if necessary, to implement Subsection (1).

Section 2. Section 31A-22-615 is enacted to read:

31A-22-615. Insurance coverage for opioids -- Policies -- Reports.

(1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Health care provider" means an individual, other than a veterinarian, who:

(i) is licensed to prescribe a controlled substance under Title 58, Chapter 37, Utah Controlled Substances Act; and

(ii) possesses the authority, in accordance with the individual's scope of practice, to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances and Schedule III controlled substances that are applicable to opioids and benzodiazepines.

(b) "Health insurer" means:

(i) an insurer who offers health care insurance as that term is defined in Section 31A-1-301;

(ii) health benefits offered to state employees under Section 49-20-202; and

(iii) a workers' compensation insurer;

(A) authorized to provide workers' compensation insurance in the state; or
(B) that is a self-insured employer as defined in Section 34A-2-201.

(c) "Opioid" has the same meaning as "opiate," as that term is defined in Section


(d) "Prescribing policy" means a policy developed by a health insurer that includes evidence based guidelines for prescribing opioids, and may include the 2016 Center for Disease Control Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, or the Utah Clinical Guidelines on Prescribing Opioids for the treatment of pain.

(2) A health insurer that provides prescription drug coverage may enact a policy to minimize the risk of opioid addiction and overdose from:

(a) chronic co-prescription of opioids with benzodiazapines and other sedating substances;

(b) prescription of very high dose opioids in the primary care setting; and

(c) the inadvertent transition of short-term opioids for an acute injury into long-term opioid dependence.

(3) A health insurer that provides prescription drug coverage may enact policies to facilitate:

(a) non-narcotic treatment alternatives for patients who have chronic pain; and

(b) medication-assisted treatment for patients who have opioid dependence disorder.

(4) The requirements of this section apply to insurance plans entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2017.

(5) (a) A health insurer subject to this section shall on or before September 1, 2017, and before each September 1 thereafter, submit a written report to the Utah Insurance Department regarding whether the insurer has adopted a policy and a general description of the policy.

(b) The Utah Insurance Department shall, on or before October 1, 2017, and before each October 1 thereafter, submit a written summary of the information under Subsection (5)(a) to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee.
(6) A health insurer subject to this section may share the policies developed under this section with other health insurers and the public.

(7) This section sunsets in accordance with Section 63I-1-231.

Section 3. Section 34A-2-424 is enacted to read:

34A-2-424. Prescribing policies for certain opioid prescriptions.

(1) This section applies to a person regulated by this chapter or Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act.

(2) A self-insured employer, as that term is defined in Section 34A-2-201.5, an insurance carrier, and a managed health care program under Section 34A-2-111 may implement a prescribing policy for certain opioid prescriptions in accordance with Section 31A-22-615.

Section 4. Section 49-20-414 is enacted to read:

49-20-414. Prescribing policies for certain opioid prescriptions.

A plan offered to state employees under this chapter may implement a prescribing policy for certain opioid prescriptions in accordance with Section 31A-22-615.

Section 5. Section 63I-1-231 is amended to read:

63I-1-231. Repeal dates, Title 31A.

(1) Section 31A-2-217, Coordination with other states, is repealed July 1, 2023.

(2) Section 31A-22-615 is repealed July 1, 2022.

(3) Section 31A-22-619.6, Coordination of benefits with workers' compensation claim--Health insurer's duty to pay, is repealed on July 1, 2018.

(4) Section 31A-22-642, Insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder, is repealed on January 1, 2019.