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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- BENEFIT DETERMINATION AND UTILIZATION  
REVIEW ACT

Introduced By: Senators Urso, DiMario, Kallman, Murray, Acosta, Rogers, Gu, and  
Britto

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18.9 of the General Laws entitled "Benefit Determination and  
2   Utilization Review Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **27-18.9-17. Utilization review decisions for the treatment of alcohol or substance use**  
4 **disorder.**

5           (a) For health benefit plans issued or renewed on or after the effective date of this section,  
6 an insurer or pharmacy benefit manager shall not require or conduct a prospective or concurrent  
7 review for a prescription medicine:

8           (1) That is used in the treatment of alcohol or opioid use disorder and contains methadone,  
9 buprenorphine or naltrexone; or

10          (2) That is used in the treatment of alcohol or opioid use disorder and has been approved  
11 by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the management of alcohol or opioid use  
12 disorder, or the mitigation of opioid withdrawal symptoms.

13          SECTION 2. Chapter 40-8 of the General Laws entitled "Medical Assistance" is hereby  
14 amended by adding thereto the following section:

15          **40-8-33. Utilization reviews for Medicaid benefits.**

16          In conducting utilization reviews for Medicaid benefits, each Medicaid managed care  
17 organization shall use the medical necessity criteria selected by the executive office of health and  
18 human services for making determinations of medical necessity and clinical appropriateness

1     [pursuant to the utilization review plan.](#)

2             SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO INSURANCE -- BENEFIT DETERMINATION AND UTILIZATION  
REVIEW ACT

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1           This act would prohibit healthcare insurers or pharmacy benefit managers from requiring  
2   or conducting a review for prescription medicine that is used in the treatment of alcohol or opioid  
3   use disorder, that contains methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone or that was approved for the  
4   mitigation of opioid withdrawal symptoms.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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