

2026 -- S 2109 AS AMENDED

LC003217

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) A utilization review decision shall not retrospectively deny coverage for healthcare
6 service provided to a covered person, when prior approval has been obtained from the insurer or its
7 designee for those services, unless the approval was based upon fraudulent, materially inaccurate,
8 or misrepresented information submitted by the covered person, authorized person, or the provider.

9 (b) For health benefit plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, an insurer or
10 shall not require or conduct a prospective or concurrent review for a prescription medicine:

11 (1) That is used for the treatment of alcohol or opioid use disorder; (2) That contains
12 methadone, buprenorphine or naltrexone; or

13 (3) That was approved before January 1, 2027, by the United States Food and Drug
14 Administration for the management of alcohol or opioid use disorder, or the mitigation of opioid
15 withdrawal symptoms.

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

18 **40-8-33. Utilization reviews for Medicaid benefits.**

1 In conducting utilization reviews for Medicaid benefits, each Medicaid managed care
2 organization shall use the medical necessity criteria selected by the executive office of health and
3 human services for making determinations of medical necessity and clinical appropriateness
4 pursuant to the utilization review plan.

5 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

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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