

2013 -- H 5983

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE - PRESCRIPTION EYE DROP REFILLS

Introduced By: Representative Thomas Winfield

Date Introduced: April 11, 2013

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18 of the General Laws entitled “Accident and Sickness
2 Insurance Policies” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **27-18-79. Prescription eye drop refills. - Coverage mandated. --** Every policy which
4 provides coverage for prescription drugs shall, with regard to eye drop medication requiring a
5 prescription that has been approved by the insurer for coverage, allow for the limited refilling of
6 the prescription prior to the last day of the approved dosage period without regard to any
7 coverage restrictions on early refill of renewals; provided, however, that any refill dispensed prior
8 to the expiration of the prescribed and approved coverage period pursuant to this paragraph, shall,
9 to the extent practicable, be limited in quantity so as not to exceed the remaining dosage initially
10 approved for coverage; provided, further, that such limited refilling shall not limit or restrict
11 coverage with regard to any previously or subsequently approved prescription for eye drop
12 medication, and shall be subject to the terms and condition of policy otherwise applicable to this
13 coverage; provided, further, that a pharmacist may contact the prescribing physician or health
14 care provider to verify the prescription.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 27-19 of the General Laws entitled “Individual Health Insurance
16 Coverage” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

17 **27-19-70. Prescription eye drop refills. --** Every policy which provides coverage for
18 prescription drugs shall, with regard to eye drop medication requiring a prescription that has been
19 approved by the insurer for coverage, allow for the limited refilling of the prescription prior to the

1 last day of the approved dosage period without regard to any coverage restrictions on early refill
2 of renewals; provided, however, that any refill dispensed prior to the expiration of the prescribed
3 and approved coverage period pursuant to this paragraph, shall, to the extent practicable, be
4 limited in quantity so as not to exceed the remaining dosage initially approved for coverage;
5 provided, further, that such limited refilling shall not limit or restrict coverage with regard to any
6 previously or subsequently approved prescription for eye drop medication, and shall be subject to
7 the terms and condition of policy otherwise applicable to this coverage; provided, further, that a
8 pharmacist may contact the prescribing physician or health care provider to verify the
9 prescription.

10 SECTION 3. Chapter 27-20 of the General Laws entitled “Nonprofit Medical Service
11 Corporations” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

12 **27-20-66. Prescription eye drop refills.** -- Every policy which provides coverage for
13 prescription drugs shall, with regard to eye drop medication requiring a prescription that has been
14 approved by the insurer for coverage, allow for the limited refilling of the prescription prior to the
15 last day of the approved dosage period without regard to any coverage restrictions on early refill
16 of renewals; provided, however, that any refill dispensed prior to the expiration of the prescribed
17 and approved coverage period pursuant to this paragraph, shall, to the extent practicable, be
18 limited in quantity so as not to exceed the remaining dosage initially approved for coverage;
19 provided, further, that such limited refilling shall not limit or restrict coverage with regard to any
20 previously or subsequently approved prescription for eye drop medication, and shall be subject to
21 the terms and condition of policy otherwise applicable to this coverage; provided, further, that a
22 pharmacist may contact the prescribing physician or health care provider to verify the
23 prescription.

24 SECTION 4. Chapter 27-41 of the General Laws entitled “Health Maintenance
25 Organizations” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

26 **27-41-83. Prescription eye drop refills.** -- Every policy which provides coverage for
27 prescription drugs shall, with regard to eye drop medication requiring a prescription that has been
28 approved by the insurer for coverage, allow for the limited refilling of the prescription prior to the
29 last day of the approved dosage period without regard to any coverage restrictions on early refill
30 of renewals; provided, however, that any refill dispensed prior to the expiration of the prescribed
31 and approved coverage period pursuant to this paragraph, shall, to the extent practicable, be
32 limited in quantity so as not to exceed the remaining dosage initially approved for coverage;
33 provided, further, that such limited refilling shall not limit or restrict coverage with regard to any
34 previously or subsequently approved prescription for eye drop medication and shall be subject to

1 [the terms and condition of policy otherwise applicable to this coverage; provided, further, that a](#)
2 [pharmacist may contact the prescribing physician or health care provider to verify the](#)
3 [prescription.](#)

4 SECTION 5. 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 - PRESCRIPTION EYE DROP REFILLS

- 1 This act would allow early refilling of eye drop prescription medication prior to the last
- 2 day of the approved dosage period without insurance coverage restrictions on early refill.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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