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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: Senators Felag, Lynch, Ciccone, Lombardi, and Ottiano

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

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

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- 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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