

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Introduced By: Senators Ujifusa, DiMario, Valverde, DiPalma, Lauria, Bell, Miller,
Acosta, Zurier, and Mack

Date Introduced: February 16, 2023

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 27-38.2-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-38.2 entitled "Insurance
2 Coverage for Mental Illness and Substance Abuse" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **27-38.2-1. Coverage for treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.**

4 (a) A group health plan and an individual or group health insurance plan shall provide
5 coverage for the treatment of mental health and/or substance use disorders under the same terms
6 and conditions as that coverage is provided for other illnesses and diseases.

7 (b) Coverage for the treatment of mental health and/or substance use disorders shall not
8 impose any annual or lifetime dollar limitation.

9 (c) Financial requirements and quantitative treatment limitations on coverage for the
10 treatment of mental health and/or substance use disorders shall be no more restrictive than the
11 predominant financial requirements applied to substantially all coverage for medical conditions in
12 each treatment classification.

13 (d) Coverage shall not impose non-quantitative treatment limitations for the treatment of
14 mental health and/or substance use disorders unless the processes, strategies, evidentiary standards,
15 or other factors used in applying the non-quantitative treatment limitation, as written and in
16 operation, are comparable to, and are applied no more stringently than, the processes, strategies,
17 evidentiary standards, or other factors used in applying the limitation with respect to
18 medical/surgical benefits in the classification.

1 (e) The following classifications shall be used to apply the coverage requirements of this
2 chapter: (1) Inpatient, in-network; (2) Inpatient, out-of-network; (3) Outpatient, in-network; (4)
3 Outpatient, out-of-network; (5) Emergency care; ~~and~~ (6) [Crisis stabilization medications](#); and (7)
4 Prescription drugs.

5 (f) Medication-assisted treatment or medication-assisted maintenance services of substance
6 use disorders, opioid overdoses, and ~~chronic~~ addiction, including ~~methadone, buprenorphine,~~
7 ~~naltrexone~~, [all federally-approved medications](#) or other clinically appropriate medications, is
8 included within the appropriate classification based on the site of the service.

9 (g) Payors shall rely upon the criteria of the American Society of Addiction Medicine when
10 developing coverage for levels of care for substance use disorder treatment.

11 (h) Patients with substance use disorders shall have access to evidence-based, non-opioid
12 treatment for pain, therefore coverage shall apply to medically necessary chiropractic care and
13 osteopathic manipulative treatment performed by an individual licensed under § 5-37-2.

14 (i) Parity of cost-sharing requirements. Regardless of the professional license of the
15 provider of care, if that care is consistent with the provider's scope of practice and the health plan's
16 credentialing and contracting provisions, cost-sharing for behavioral health counseling visits and
17 medication maintenance visits shall be consistent with the cost-sharing applied to primary care
18 office visits.

19 [\(j\) The coverage required by this section shall include at minimum ninety \(90\) days of](#)
20 [residential or inpatient services for mental health and/or substance use disorders for American](#)
21 [Society of Addiction Medicine levels of care 3.1 and 3.3.](#)

22 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on April 1, 2024.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND
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1 This act would require insurance coverage for at minimum ninety (90) days of residential
2 or inpatient services for mental health and/or substance use disorders for American Society of
3 Addiction Medicine levels of care 3.1 and 3.3.

4 This act would take effect on April 1, 2024.

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