



The Maryland State Medical Society

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House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 27, 2025
House Bill 1243 – *Health Insurance – Coverage for Specialty Drugs*
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports with amendment House Bill 1243, which prohibits a healthcare insurer or a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) from excluding coverage for a covered specialty drug administered by a provider if the insurer or PBM determines that the provider is an in-network provider of covered medical oncology services and complies with State regulations for the administering and dispensing of specialty drugs.

For patients with chronic and/or life-threatening conditions, such as oncologic conditions, timely access to treatment is critical to avoid medical complications. Patients who are required by an insurer or a PBM to use a specific pharmacy or other entity often report delays in prescription delivery which, in turn, results in treatment delays. Through years of training and experience in their chosen specialty, providers who treat cancer are well-informed on the medications they prescribe and can advise their patients accordingly.

MedChi respectfully requests a clarifying amendment to remove the term “MEDICAL” from line 18 on page 3. We are concerned that the use of the term “MEDICAL” could unnecessarily narrow the bill to oncologists when other specialists, such as urologists treat patients. This amendment does not change the requirements in the bill that the provider is an in-network provider of covered oncology services and that the covered specialty drug meets certain requirements.

Therefore, MedChi urges a favorable vote on House Bill 1243 with the above amendment to allow patients the flexibility to obtain their medications at the venue that they believe will provide them with better care and quality outcomes, which will ultimately benefit the health care system at large.

For more information call:

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