



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI HIGHLIGHTS NEW HEALTH REGULATIONS THAT BEGAN JANUARY 2020

BALTIMORE, January 6, 2020 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is dedicated to our mission to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health. MedChi tracked all of the legislation during the 2019 Session and previously highlighted the new health care laws that took effect on October 1, 2019. Now, MedChi wants to share an overview of the new health care laws that took effect as of January 1, 2020.

- House Bill 599/Senate Bill 631 (Chapter 358/Chapter 357) determines coverage requirements for mental health benefits and substance use disorder benefit. It will require carriers to use the American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria for all medical necessity and utilization management determinations for substance use disorder benefits. The bill also repeals the limitation on a carrier charging a copayment for methadone maintenance treatment that is greater than 50% of the daily cost for methadone maintenance treatment.
- House Bill 435/Senate Bill 405 (Chapter 503/Chapter 504) establishes prescription drugs formulary changes and will allow a beneficiary to continue to access a drug or stay on a drug in the original cost sharing tier when a carrier either removes a drug from the formulary or moves a drug to a higher cost tier if the authorized prescriber states that there is no equivalent prescription drug in the entity's formulary or in a lower tier. If the carrier moves a drug from the formulary or shifts it to a higher cost sharing tier, the carrier must provide a beneficiary who is currently taking the drug and the member's health care provider with at least 30-day notice before the change is implemented.
- House Bill 751 (Chapter 549) outlines new prior authorization requirements which states that a carrier must honor a prior authorization from a previous entity for at least the first 30 days of the beneficiary's prescription drug benefit coverage during which time the carrier can initiate its own prior authorization review. It will also require that an entity honor a prior authorization when the beneficiary moves between health plans within the same carrier and when there is a dosage change (excluding opioids). The bill also requires that at least 30 days prior to implementing a prior authorization change, a carrier must provide a beneficiary who is currently taking the drug and all health care providers with notice of the change.

To review any bill in its entirety, please go to www.mgaleg.maryland.gov.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.