

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 182

BY SENATORS TALBOT, BOUDREAUX, JACKSON-ANDREWS, LUNEAU AND
MCMATH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MEDICAID. Provides relative to Medicaid prior authorization during a declared emergency.
(8/1/25)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 46:460.76.3, relative to Medicaid prior authorization during a declared emergency; to authorize the Louisiana Department of Health to suspend prior authorization requirements for certain Medicaid recipients during a declared emergency; to require payments to certain providers without prior authorization; to provide for documentation; to provide for notification to Medicaid recipients; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:460.76.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§460.76.3. Prior authorization; suspension during state of emergency

A. During a state of emergency declared by the governor pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721 et seq., the Louisiana Department of Health may suspend prior authorization requirements for Medicaid to ensure uninterrupted access to medically necessary oncology health care, including diagnostics, treatments, medications, and supportive services essential for cancer management.

B. Any Medicaid managed care organization, pharmacy benefit

manager, or entity responsible for fee-for-service claims processing shall reimburse providers for medically necessary oncologic drugs, services, equipment, supplies, and therapies provided to Medicaid recipients during the emergency without requiring prior authorization. Any Medicaid managed care organization, pharmacy benefit manager, or entity responsible for fee-for-service claims processing shall reimburse any out-of-state provider that provided essential oncologic care, including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and diagnostic imaging, to a Louisiana Medicaid recipient who evacuated out of state, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, without requiring prior authorization.

C. The prior authorization suspension provided for in this Section shall only apply to Medicaid recipients undergoing cancer treatment who reside within the designated emergency area.

D. The Medicaid managed care organizations shall notify oncologic patients of prior authorization suspensions, uninterrupted care access, and rights during emergencies. Notifications should be distributed through healthcare providers, community outreach, and online platforms to ensure all patients, especially vulnerable or displaced individuals, are aware of the provisions of this Section and can make informed decisions about their care.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 182 Engrossed

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Talbot

Proposed law authorizes the La. Dept. of Health to suspend prior authorization requirements for Medicaid during a declared emergency to ensure uninterrupted access to medically necessary oncology health care.

Proposed law requires Medicaid to reimburse providers for medically necessary oncologic drugs, services, equipment, supplies, and therapies provided to Medicaid recipients during the emergency without requiring prior authorization.

Proposed law requires Medicaid to reimburse any out-of-state provider that provided essential oncologic care, including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and diagnostic imaging, to a La. Medicaid recipient who evacuated out-of-state without requiring prior authorization.

Proposed law requires the Medicaid managed care organizations to notify oncologic patients of prior authorization suspensions, uninterrupted care access, and rights during emergencies.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 46:460.76.3)