State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE NO. 3185

February 18, 2008
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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services

A bill for an act

relating to human services; covering hospice services under general assistance medical care; amending Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 256D.03, subdivision 4.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2007 Supplement, section 256D.03, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **General assistance medical care; services.** (a)(i) For a person who is eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2), item (i), general assistance medical care covers, except as provided in paragraph (c):

(1) inpatient hospital services;

(2) outpatient hospital services;

(3) services provided by Medicare certified rehabilitation agencies;

(4) prescription drugs and other products recommended through the process established in section 256B.0625, subdivision 13;

(5) equipment necessary to administer insulin and diagnostic supplies and equipment for diabetics to monitor blood sugar level;

(6) eyeglasses and eye examinations provided by a physician or optometrist;

(7) hearing aids;

(8) prosthetic devices;

(9) laboratory and X-ray services;

(10) physician's services;

(11) medical transportation except special transportation;

(12) chiropractic services as covered under the medical assistance program;

(13) podiatric services;

(14) dental services as covered under the medical assistance program;

(15) mental health services covered under chapter 256B;

(16) prescribed medications for persons who have been diagnosed as mentally ill as necessary to prevent more restrictive institutionalization;

(17) medical supplies and equipment, and Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductible payments;

(18) medical equipment not specifically listed in this paragraph when the use of the equipment will prevent the need for costlier services that are reimbursable under this subdivision;

(19) services performed by a certified pediatric nurse practitioner, a certified family nurse practitioner, a certified adult nurse practitioner, a certified obstetric/gynecological nurse practitioner, a certified neonatal nurse practitioner, or a certified geriatric nurse practitioner in independent practice, if (1) the service is otherwise covered under this chapter as a physician service, (2) the service provided on an inpatient basis is not included as part of the cost for inpatient services included in the operating payment rate, and (3) the service is within the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner's license as a registered nurse, as defined in section 148.171;

(20) services of a certified public health nurse or a registered nurse practicing in a public health nursing clinic that is a department of, or that operates under the direct authority of, a unit of government, if the service is within the scope of practice of the public health nurse's license as a registered nurse, as defined in section 148.171;

(21) telemedicine consultations, to the extent they are covered under section 256B.0625, subdivision 3b;

(22) care coordination and patient education services provided by a community health worker according to section 256B.0625, subdivision 49; ~~and~~

(23) regardless of the number of employees that an enrolled health care provider may have, sign language interpreter services when provided by an enrolled health care provider during the course of providing a direct, person-to-person covered health care service to an enrolled recipient who has a hearing loss and uses interpreting services~~.~~; and

(24) hospice care services under Public Law 99-272, section 9505, to the extent authorized by rule.

(ii) Effective October 1, 2003, for a person who is eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2), item (ii), general assistance medical care coverage is limited to inpatient hospital services, including physician services provided during the inpatient hospital stay. A $1,000 deductible is required for each inpatient hospitalization.

(b) Effective August 1, 2005, sex reassignment surgery is not covered under this subdivision.

(c) In order to contain costs, the commissioner of human services shall select vendors of medical care who can provide the most economical care consistent with high medical standards and shall where possible contract with organizations on a prepaid capitation basis to provide these services. The commissioner shall consider proposals by counties and vendors for prepaid health plans, competitive bidding programs, block grants, or other vendor payment mechanisms designed to provide services in an economical manner or to control utilization, with safeguards to ensure that necessary services are provided. Before implementing prepaid programs in counties with a county operated or affiliated public teaching hospital or a hospital or clinic operated by the University of Minnesota, the commissioner shall consider the risks the prepaid program creates for the hospital and allow the county or hospital the opportunity to participate in the program in a manner that reflects the risk of adverse selection and the nature of the patients served by the hospital, provided the terms of participation in the program are competitive with the terms of other participants considering the nature of the population served. Payment for services provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be as provided to medical assistance vendors of these services under sections 256B.02, subdivision 8, and 256B.0625. For payments made during fiscal year 1990 and later years, the commissioner shall consult with an independent actuary in establishing prepayment rates, but shall retain final control over the rate methodology.

(d) Effective January 1, 2008, drug coverage under general assistance medical care is limited to prescription drugs that:

(i) are covered under the medical assistance program as described in section 256B.0625, subdivisions 13 and 13d; and

(ii) are provided by manufacturers that have fully executed general assistance medical care rebate agreements with the commissioner and comply with the agreements. Prescription drug coverage under general assistance medical care must conform to coverage under the medical assistance program according to section 256B.0625, subdivisions 13 to 13g.

(e) Recipients eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), shall pay the following co-payments for services provided on or after October 1, 2003, and before January 1, 2009:

(1) $25 for eyeglasses;

(2) $25 for nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room;

(3) $3 per brand-name drug prescription and $1 per generic drug prescription, subject to a $12 per month maximum for prescription drug co-payments. No co-payments shall apply to antipsychotic drugs when used for the treatment of mental illness; and

(4) 50 percent coinsurance on restorative dental services.

(f) Recipients eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), shall include the following co-payments for services provided on or after January 1, 2009:

(1) $25 for nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room; and

(2) $3 per brand-name drug prescription and $1 per generic drug prescription, subject to a $7 per month maximum for prescription drug co-payments. No co-payments shall apply to antipsychotic drugs when used for the treatment of mental illness.

(g) Co-payments shall be limited to one per day per provider for nonpreventive visits, eyeglasses, and nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room. Recipients of general assistance medical care are responsible for all co-payments in this subdivision. The general assistance medical care reimbursement to the provider shall be reduced by the amount of the co-payment, except that reimbursement for prescription drugs shall not be reduced once a recipient has reached the $12 per month maximum for prescription drug co-payments. The provider collects the co-payment from the recipient. Providers may not deny services to recipients who are unable to pay the co-payment. This paragraph expires January 1, 2009.

(h) Effective January 1, 2009, co-payments shall be limited to one per day per provider for nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room. Recipients of general assistance medical care are responsible for all co-payments in this subdivision. The general assistance medical care reimbursement to the provider shall be reduced by the amount of the co-payment, except that reimbursement for prescription drugs shall not be reduced once a recipient has reached the $7 per month maximum for prescription drug co-payments. The provider collects the co-payment from the recipient. Providers may not deny services to recipients who are unable to pay the co-payment.

(i) General assistance medical care reimbursement to fee-for-service providers and payments to managed care plans shall not be increased as a result of the removal of the co-payments effective January 1, 2009.

(j) Any county may, from its own resources, provide medical payments for which state payments are not made.

(k) Chemical dependency services that are reimbursed under chapter 254B must not be reimbursed under general assistance medical care.

(l) The maximum payment for new vendors enrolled in the general assistance medical care program after the base year shall be determined from the average usual and customary charge of the same vendor type enrolled in the base year.

(m) The conditions of payment for services under this subdivision are the same as the conditions specified in rules adopted under chapter 256B governing the medical assistance program, unless otherwise provided by statute or rule.

(n) Inpatient and outpatient payments shall be reduced by five percent, effective July 1, 2003. This reduction is in addition to the five percent reduction effective July 1, 2003, and incorporated by reference in paragraph (l).

(o) Payments for all other health services except inpatient, outpatient, and pharmacy services shall be reduced by five percent, effective July 1, 2003.

(p) Payments to managed care plans shall be reduced by five percent for services provided on or after October 1, 2003.

(q) A hospital receiving a reduced payment as a result of this section may apply the unpaid balance toward satisfaction of the hospital's bad debts.

(r) Fee-for-service payments for nonpreventive visits shall be reduced by $3 for services provided on or after January 1, 2006. For purposes of this subdivision, a visit means an episode of service which is required because of a recipient's symptoms, diagnosis, or established illness, and which is delivered in an ambulatory setting by a physician or physician ancillary, chiropractor, podiatrist, advance practice nurse, audiologist, optician, or optometrist.

(s) Payments to managed care plans shall not be increased as a result of the removal of the $3 nonpreventive visit co-payment effective January 1, 2006.

(t) Payments for mental health services added as covered benefits after December 31, 2007, are not subject to the reductions in paragraphs (l), (n), (o), and (p).