

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 38.2-3418.12, relating to accident and sickness insurance; coverage for hospitalization and anesthesia for dental procedures.

[H 165]

Approved

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 38.2-3418.12 as follows:

§ 38.2-3418.12. Coverage for hospitalization and anesthesia for dental procedures.

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 38.2-3419, each insurer proposing to issue individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies providing hospital, medical and surgical, or major medical coverage on an expense-incurred basis; each corporation providing individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts; and each health maintenance organization providing a health care plan for health care services shall provide coverage for medically necessary general anesthesia and hospitalization or facility charges of a facility licensed to provide outpatient surgical procedures for dental care provided to a covered person who is determined by a licensed dentist in consultation with the covered person's treating physician to require general anesthesia and admission to a hospital or outpatient surgery facility to effectively and safely provide dental care and (i) is under the age of five, or (ii) is severely disabled, or (iii) has a medical condition and requires admission to a hospital or outpatient surgery facility and general anesthesia for dental care treatment. For purposes of this section, a determination of medical necessity shall include but not be limited to a consideration of whether the age, physical condition or mental condition of the covered person requires the utilization of general anesthesia and the admission to a hospital or outpatient surgery facility to safely provide the underlying dental care.

B. Such insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization may require prior authorization for general anesthesia and hospitalization or surgical facility charges for dental procedures in the same manner that prior authorization is required for other covered benefits.

C. Such insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization shall restrict coverage for general anesthesia expenses to those health care providers who are licensed to provide anesthesia services and shall restrict coverage for facility charges to facilities licensed to provide surgical services.

D. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require coverage for dental care incident to the coverage provided in this section.

E. The provisions of this section are applicable to any policy, contract or plan delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in this Commonwealth on and after July 1, 2000.

F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to short-term travel, accident-only, limited or specified disease policies, nor to policies or contracts designed for issuance to persons eligible for coverage under Title XVII of the Social Security Act, known as Medicare, or any other similar coverage under state or federal governmental plans.

§ 38.2-4319. (Effective until July 1, 2004) Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.

A. No provisions of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-210 through 38.2-213, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-229, 38.2-232, 38.2-305, 38.2-316, 38.2-322, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1057, 38.2-1306.2 through 38.2-1309, Articles 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.) and 5 (§ 38.2-1322 et seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.) and 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.) of Chapter 14, §§ 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836, 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9 through 38.2-3407.16, 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3412.1:01, 38.2-3414.1, 38.2-3418.1 through 38.2-3418.11, 38.2-3418.12, 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3437, 38.2-3500, 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3542, 38.2-3543.2, Chapter 53 (§ 38.2-5300 et seq.), Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.) and Chapter 59 (§ 38.2-5900 et seq.) of this title shall be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter shall not apply to an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the insurance laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) of this title except with respect to the activities of its health maintenance

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57 organization.

58 B. Solicitation of enrollees by a licensed health maintenance organization or by its representatives
59 shall not be construed to violate any provisions of law relating to solicitation or advertising by health
60 professionals.

61 C. A licensed health maintenance organization shall not be deemed to be engaged in the unlawful
62 practice of medicine. All health care providers associated with a health maintenance organization shall
63 be subject to all provisions of law.

64 D. Notwithstanding the definition of an eligible employee as set forth in § 38.2-3431, a health
65 maintenance organization providing health care plans pursuant to § 38.2-3431 shall not be required to
66 offer coverage to or accept applications from an employee who does not reside within the health
67 maintenance organization's service area.

68 § 38.2-4319. (Effective July 1, 2004) Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.

69 A. No provisions of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this
70 chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-210 through 38.2-213, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225,
71 38.2-229, 38.2-232, 38.2-305, 38.2-316, 38.2-322, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500
72 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1057, 38.2-1306.2
73 through 38.2-1309, Articles 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.) and 5 (§ 38.2-1322 et seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1
74 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.) and 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.) of Chapter 14, §§ 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836,
75 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9 through
76 38.2-3407.16, 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3414.1, 38.2-3418.1 through ~~38.2-3418.11~~ 38.2-3418.12, 38.2-3419.1,
77 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3437, 38.2-3500, 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1 through 38.2-3523.4,
78 38.2-3525, 38.2-3542, 38.2-3543.2, Chapter 53 (§ 38.2-5300 et seq.), Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.)
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80 organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter shall not apply to an insurer or health
81 services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the insurance laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200
82 et seq.) of this title except with respect to the activities of its health maintenance organization.

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