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SENATE BILL NO. 1611

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 9, 2019

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 38.2-4214, 38.2-4319, and 54.1-2910.01 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 34 of Title 38.2 an article numbered 8, consisting of sections numbered 38.2-3461 through 38.2-3465, relating to health care shared savings; required disclosures by health care providers; and health insurance incentive programs.

Patron—Dunnavant

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 38.2-4214, 38.2-4319, and 54.1-2910.01 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 34 of Title 38.2 an article numbered 8, consisting of sections numbered 38.2-3461 through 38.2-3465, as follows:

Article 8.

Health Care Shared Savings.

§ 38.2-3461. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Allowed amount" means the contractually agreed upon amount paid or payable by a health carrier to a health care provider participating in the health carrier's network and the covered person's out-of-pocket costs.

"Average" means mean, median, or mode.

"Comparable health care service" means any covered non-emergency health care service or bundle of health care services for which a carrier has not demonstrated that the allowed amount variation among participating providers is less than \$50.

"Covered person" means a policyholder, subscriber, participant, or other individual covered by a health benefit plan.

"Health benefit plan" means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement offered by a health carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care services. "Health benefit plan" includes short-term and catastrophic health insurance policies, and a policy that pays on a cost-incurred basis, except as otherwise specifically exempted in this definition. "Health benefit plan" does not include the "excepted benefits" as defined in § 38.2-3431. "Health benefit plan" does not include any health insurance plan administered by the Department of Human Resource Management, including the health coverage offered to state employees pursuant to § 2.2-2818; health insurance coverage offered to employees of local governments, local officers, teachers, and retirees, and the dependents of such employees, local officers, teachers and retirees pursuant to § 2.2-1204; or health insurance coverage provided under the Line of Duty Act (§ 9.1-400 et seq.).

"Health care provider" means a health care professional or facility.

"Health care service" means a service for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease.

"Health carrier" means an entity subject to the insurance laws and regulations of the Commonwealth and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission that contracts or offers to contract to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care services, including an insurer licensed to sell accident and sickness insurance, a health maintenance organization, a health services plan, or any other entity providing a plan of health insurance, health benefits, or health care services.

"Network" or "provider network" means the group of participating providers providing services to a health benefit plan under which the financing and delivery of health care services are provided, in whole or in part, through a defined set of health care providers.

"Network provider" means a health care provider that has contracted with the health carrier, or with its contractor or subcontractor, to provide health care services to covered persons as a member of a network.

"Out-of-pocket costs" means any copayment, deductible, or coinsurance that is the responsibility of the covered person with respect to a covered health care service.

"Program" means the comparable health care service incentive program established by a health carrier pursuant to this article.

§ 38.2-3462. Comparable Health Care Service Incentive Program.

A. Beginning with health benefit plans offered or renewed on or after January 1, 2020, each health

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59 carrier offering a health benefit plan in the Commonwealth shall develop and implement a program that  
60 provides incentives for covered persons in its health benefit plan who elect to receive a comparable  
61 health care service that is covered by the health benefit plan from health care providers that are paid  
62 less than the average in-network allowed amount paid or payable by that health carrier to network  
63 providers for that comparable health care service. A health carrier may base the average paid to a  
64 network provider on what that health carrier pays to providers in the network applicable to the covered  
65 person's specific health benefit plan, or across all of its health benefit plans offered in the  
66 Commonwealth.

67 B. Incentives shall be provided as a percentage of the difference in allowed amounts to the average,  
68 as a flat dollar amount, or by some other reasonable incentive approved by the Commission. The health  
69 carrier shall provide the incentive as a cash payment to the covered person or credit toward the  
70 covered person's annual in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit. Health carriers may let covered  
71 persons decide which method they prefer to receive the incentive.

72 C. The incentive program shall provide covered persons with an incentive for each service or  
73 category of comparable health care service resulting from comparison shopping by covered persons. A  
74 health carrier is not required to provide a payment or credit to a covered person when the health  
75 carrier's saved cost is \$25 or less.

76 D. A health carrier shall determine the allowed amount paid or payable by that health carrier to  
77 network providers for that comparable health care service on the basis of the average allowed amount  
78 for the procedure or service under the covered person's health benefit plan. Such determination shall be  
79 made on the basis of the average of the allowed amounts using data collected over a reasonable period  
80 not to exceed one year. A health carrier may determine an alternate methodology for calculating the  
81 average allowed amount if approved by the Commission. A health carrier shall, at minimum, inform  
82 covered persons of their eligibility for an incentive payment and the process to request the average  
83 allowed amount for a procedure or service on the health carrier's website and in health benefit plan  
84 materials.

85 E. Eligibility for an incentive payment may require a covered person to demonstrate, through  
86 reasonable documentation such as a quote from the health care provider, that the covered person  
87 shopped prior to receiving care from the health care provider who charges less for the comparable  
88 health care service than the average allowed amount paid or payable by that health carrier. Health  
89 carriers shall provide additional mechanisms for the covered person to satisfy this requirement by  
90 utilizing the health carrier's cost transparency website or toll-free number, established under this article.

91 F. Each health carrier shall make the program available as a component of all health benefit plans  
92 offered by the health carrier in the Commonwealth. Annually at enrollment or renewal, each health  
93 carrier shall provide notice about the availability of the program, a description of the incentives  
94 available to a covered person, and instructions on how to earn such incentives, to any covered person  
95 who is enrolled in a health benefit plan eligible for the program.

96 G. A comparable health care service incentive payment made by a health carrier in accordance with  
97 this section shall not constitute an administrative expense of the health carrier for rate development or  
98 rate filing purposes.

99 H. Prior to offering the program to any covered person, a health carrier shall file a description of  
100 the program with the Commission in the manner determined by the Commission. The Commission may  
101 review the filing made by the health carrier to determine if the health carrier's program complies with  
102 the requirements of this article.

103 I. Annually by April 1, each health carrier shall file with the Commission, for the most recent  
104 calendar year, the total number of comparable health care service incentive payments made pursuant to  
105 this article, the use of comparable health care services by category of service for which comparable  
106 health care service incentives are made, the total payments made to covered persons, the average  
107 amount of incentive payments made by service for such transactions, the total savings achieved below  
108 the average allowed amount by service for such transactions, and the total number and percentage of a  
109 health carrier's covered persons that participated in such transactions.

110 J. Beginning no later than 18 months after implementation of comparable health care service  
111 incentive programs under this section and annually by November 1 of each year thereafter, the  
112 Commission shall submit an aggregate report for all health carriers filing the information required by  
113 this section to the chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor.

114 **§ 38.2-3463. Health care price transparency tools.**

115 Beginning with health benefit plans offered or renewed on or after January 1, 2020, each health  
116 carrier offering a health benefit plan in the Commonwealth shall comply with the following  
117 requirements:

118 1. A health carrier shall establish an interactive mechanism on its website that enables a covered  
119 person to request and obtain from the health carrier the out-of-pocket cost to the covered person for  
120 comparable health care services from network providers, as well as quality data for those providers, to

121 *the extent available. The interactive mechanism shall allow a covered person seeking information about*  
 122 *the cost of a comparable health care service to compare out-of-pocket costs applicable to that covered*  
 123 *person's health benefit plan. The out-of-pocket estimate shall provide a good faith estimate of the*  
 124 *amount the covered person will be responsible to pay out-of-pocket for a proposed comparable health*  
 125 *care service or service that is a medically necessary covered benefit from a health carrier's network*  
 126 *provider, including any copayment, deductible, coinsurance, or other out-of-pocket amount for any*  
 127 *covered benefit, based on the information available to the health carrier at the time the request is made.*  
 128 *A health carrier may contract with a third-party vendor to satisfy the requirements of this subdivision.*

129 *2. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health carrier from imposing cost-sharing requirements*  
 130 *disclosed in the covered person's certificate of coverage for unforeseen health care services that arise*  
 131 *out of the comparable health care service or for a procedure or service provided to a covered person*  
 132 *that was not included in an original estimate provided under subdivision 1.*

133 *3. A health carrier shall notify a covered person that an estimate provided under subdivision 1 is an*  
 134 *estimate of costs and that the actual amount the covered person will be responsible to pay may vary due*  
 135 *to the need for unforeseen services that arise out of the proposed comparable health care service.*

136 **§ 38.2-3464. Use of All-Payer Claims Database.**

137 *The use by a health carrier of data reported on a publicly accessible health care cost website of the*  
 138 *Virginia All-Payer Claims Database in determining the statewide average for a health care service*  
 139 *based on data reported on a publicly accessible health care cost website of the Virginia All-Payer*  
 140 *Claims Database shall be voluntary. The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to require health*  
 141 *carriers or health care providers to report data to the Virginia All-Payer Claims Database or to require*  
 142 *the Virginia All-Payer Claims Database to release data to health carriers to the extent that such release*  
 143 *of data is not required or permitted under § 32.1-276.7:1.*

144 **§ 38.2-3465. Rules and regulations; orders.**

145 *The Commission, after notice and opportunity for all interested parties to be heard, may issue any*  
 146 *rules and regulations necessary or appropriate for the administration and enforcement of this article.*

147 **§ 38.2-4214. Application of certain provisions of law.**

148 *No provision of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this*  
 149 *chapter, §§ 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-209 through 38.2-213, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-230,*  
 150 *38.2-232, 38.2-305, 38.2-316, 38.2-316.1, 38.2-322, 38.2-325, 38.2-326, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through*  
 151 *38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-620, 38.2-700 through 38.2-705, 38.2-900*  
 152 *through 38.2-904, 38.2-1017, 38.2-1018, 38.2-1038, 38.2-1040 through 38.2-1044, Articles 1*  
 153 *(§ 38.2-1300 et seq.) and 2 (§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.) of Chapter 13, §§ 38.2-1312, 38.2-1314, 38.2-1315.1,*  
 154 *38.2-1317 through 38.2-1328, 38.2-1334, 38.2-1340, 38.2-1400 through 38.2-1442, 38.2-1446,*  
 155 *38.2-1447, 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836, 38.2-3400, 38.2-3401, 38.2-3404, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1,*  
 156 *38.2-3406.1, 38.2-3406.2, 38.2-3407.1 through 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9 through 38.2-3407.19,*  
 157 *38.2-3409, 38.2-3411 through 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3454, Article 8 (§ 38.2-3461 et*  
 158 *seq.) of Chapter 34, 38.2-3501, 38.2-3502, subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504,*  
 159 *§§ 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, §§ 38.2-3516 through 38.2-3520 as they apply to Medicare supplement*  
 160 *policies, §§ 38.2-3522.1 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1, 38.2-3541 through 38.2-3542,*  
 161 *38.2-3543.2, Article 5 (§ 38.2-3551 et seq.) of Chapter 35, Chapter 35.1 (§ 38.2-3556 et seq.),*  
 162 *§§ 38.2-3600 through 38.2-3607, Chapter 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), and*  
 163 *Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.) of this title shall apply to the operation of a plan.*

164 **§ 38.2-4319. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.**

165 *A. No provisions of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this*  
 166 *chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-136, 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-209 through 38.2-213, 38.2-216, 38.2-218*  
 167 *through 38.2-225, 38.2-229, 38.2-232, 38.2-305, 38.2-316, 38.2-316.1, 38.2-322, 38.2-325, 38.2-326,*  
 168 *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*  
 169 *(§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057, 38.2-1306.1, Article 2*  
 170 *(§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.), § 38.2-1315.1, Articles 3.1 (§ 38.2-1316.1 et seq.), 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.), 5*  
 171 *(§ 38.2-1322 et seq.), 5.1 (§ 38.2-1334.3 et seq.), and 5.2 (§ 38.2-1334.11 et seq.) of Chapter 13,*  
 172 *Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.), 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.), and 4 (§ 38.2-1446 et seq.) of Chapter 14,*  
 173 *Chapter 15 (§ 38.2-1500 et seq.), Chapter 17 (§ 38.2-1700 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836,*  
 174 *38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1, 38.2-3406.1, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9 through*  
 175 *38.2-3407.19, 38.2-3411, 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3411.3, 38.2-3411.4, 38.2-3412.1, 38.2-3414.1, 38.2-3418.1*  
 176 *through 38.2-3418.17, 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3454, Article 8 (§ 38.2-3461 et seq.) of*  
 177 *Chapter 34, 38.2-3500, subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1,*  
 178 *38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1, 38.2-3540.2, 38.2-3541.2,*  
 179 *38.2-3542, 38.2-3543.2, Article 5 (§ 38.2-3551 et seq.) of Chapter 35, Chapter 35.1 (§ 38.2-3556 et*  
 180 *seq.), Chapter 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), and Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800*  
 181 *et seq.) shall be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter.*

182 This chapter shall not apply to an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance  
183 with the insurance laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) except with respect to the activities of its  
184 health maintenance organization.

185 B. For plans administered by the Department of Medical Assistance Services that provide benefits  
186 pursuant to Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act, as amended, no provisions of this title  
187 except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-136,  
188 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-209 through 38.2-213, 38.2-216, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-229,  
189 38.2-232, 38.2-322, 38.2-325, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600  
190 through 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057,  
191 38.2-1306.1, Article 2 (§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.), § 38.2-1315.1, Articles 3.1 (§ 38.2-1316.1 et seq.), 4  
192 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.), 5 (§ 38.2-1322 et seq.), 5.1 (§ 38.2-1334.3 et seq.), and 5.2 (§ 38.2-1334.11 et  
193 seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.), 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.), and 4 (§ 38.2-1446 et  
194 seq.) of Chapter 14, §§ 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.5, 38.2-3407.6,  
195 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9, 38.2-3407.9:01, and 38.2-3407.9:02, subdivisions F 1, F 2, and F 3 of  
196 § 38.2-3407.10, §§ 38.2-3407.11, 38.2-3407.11:3, 38.2-3407.13, 38.2-3407.13:1, 38.2-3407.14,  
197 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3418.1, 38.2-3418.2, 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3437, 38.2-3500,  
198 subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1  
199 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1, 38.2-3540.2, 38.2-3541.2, 38.2-3542, 38.2-3543.2, Chapter  
200 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), and Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.) shall  
201 be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter  
202 shall not apply to an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the  
203 insurance laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) except with respect to the activities of its health  
204 maintenance organization.

205 C. Solicitation of enrollees by a licensed health maintenance organization or by its representatives  
206 shall not be construed to violate any provisions of law relating to solicitation or advertising by health  
207 professionals.

208 D. A licensed health maintenance organization shall not be deemed to be engaged in the unlawful  
209 practice of medicine. All health care providers associated with a health maintenance organization shall  
210 be subject to all provisions of law.

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

215 F. For purposes of applying this section, "insurer" when used in a section cited in subsections A and  
216 B shall be construed to mean and include "health maintenance organizations" unless the section cited  
217 clearly applies to health maintenance organizations without such construction.

218 **§ 54.1-2910.01. Practitioner information provided to patients.**

219 Upon request by a patient, doctors of medicine, osteopathy, and podiatry shall inform the patient  
220 about the following:

221 1. Procedures to access information on the doctor compiled by the Board of Medicine pursuant to  
222 § 54.1-2910.1; *and*

223 2. If the patient is not covered by a health insurance plan that the doctor accepts or a managed care  
224 health insurance plan in which the doctor participates, the patient may be subject to the doctor's full  
225 charge which may be greater than the health plan's allowable charge; *and*

226 3. *For purposes of § 38.2-3463, licensees of the Board of Medicine or their designee shall provide a*  
227 *description of the elective procedure or test, or the applicable standard procedural terminology or*  
228 *medical codes used by the American Medical Association, sufficient to allow a patient to compare care*  
229 *options if the patient is being referred for an elective procedure or test.*