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HOUSE BILL NO. 612

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 6, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 38.2-3418.18, relating to health insurance; coverage for amino acid-based elemental formula.

Patron—Plum

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 38.2-3418.18 as follows:

§ 38.2-3418.18. Coverage for amino acid-based elemental formula.

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 amino acid-based elemental formula, regardless of delivery method, for the diagnosis and treatment of (i) Immunoglobulin E and non-Immunoglobulin E mediated allergies to multiple food proteins; (ii) severe food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome; (iii) eosinophilic disorders, as evidenced by the results of a biopsy; and (iv) impaired absorption of nutrients caused by disorders affecting the absorptive surface, functional length, and motility of the gastrointestinal tract.

B. The coverage required under subsection A is required if the covered person's physician has issued a written order stating that the amino acid-based elemental formula is medically necessary for the treatment of a disease or disorder listed in clauses (i) through (iv) of subsection A.

C. No insurer, corporation, or health maintenance organization shall impose upon any covered person receiving benefits for any amino acid-based elemental formula pursuant to this section any (i) copayment, coinsurance payment, or fee that is not equally imposed upon all individuals in the same benefit category, class, coinsurance level, or copayment level receiving benefits for medicines or (ii) reduction in allowable reimbursement for medicine.

D. The provisions of this section shall apply to any policy, contract, or plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in the Commonwealth on and after January 1, 2021.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to short-term travel, accident-only, or limited or specified disease policies; contracts designed for issuance to persons eligible for coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, known as Medicare, or any other similar coverage under state or federal governmental plans; or short-term nonrenewable policies of not more than six months' duration.

F. As used in this section, "covered person" means a policyholder, subscriber, enrollee, or other individual participating in a policy, contract, or plan subject to this section.

§ 38.2-4319. 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, 38.2-136, 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, 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 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057, 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 (§ 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 seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.), 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.), and 4 (§ 38.2-1446 et seq.) of Chapter 14, Chapter 15 (§ 38.2-1500 et seq.), Chapter 17 (§ 38.2-1700 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836, 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 38.2-3407.20, 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 through 38.2-3418.17, 38.2-3418.18, 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3454, Article 8 (§ 38.2-3461 et seq.) of Chapter 34, 38.2-3500, subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1, 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, 38.2-3542, 38.2-3543.2, Article 5 (§ 38.2-3551 et seq.) of Chapter 35, Chapter 35.1 (§ 38.2-3556 et seq.), Chapter 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), and Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.) shall be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under

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

62 B. For plans administered by the Department of Medical Assistance Services that provide benefits
63 pursuant to Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act, as amended, no provisions of this title
64 except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-136,
65 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,
66 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
67 through 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057,
68 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
69 (§ 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
70 seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.), 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.), and 4 (§ 38.2-1446 et
71 seq.) of Chapter 14, §§ 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.5, 38.2-3407.6,
72 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
73 § 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,
74 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,
75 subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1
76 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
77 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), and Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.) shall be
78 applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter shall
79 not apply to an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the insurance
80 laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) except with respect to the activities of its health maintenance
81 organization.

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

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

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

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