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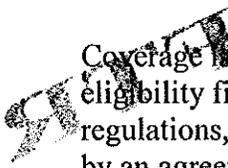
Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of
House Bill 5387 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Claims Forms and the
Development of a Uniform Treatment Authorization Form For Mental Health
Services
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 82012

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the more than 7,000 physician and physician-in-training members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today in support of **House Bill 5387 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Claims Forms and the Development of a Uniform Treatment Authorization Form For Mental Health Services**. This proposed legislation allows physicians to use an identification number provided to every physician by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Provider Identifier (NPI) when filing a claim with a Health Insurer.

CSMS has presented testimony to this committee in past sessions explaining why the use of a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for the purposes of submitting a claim is not necessary. Furthermore, their use merely increases the likelihood of identity theft as health insurance claims often pass through many entities throughout the claims process. That being said, the bill before you today does not prevent the use of a SSN or EIN by those physicians choosing to do so, it merely allows physicians to use the more appropriate NPI.

As we all work together to develop and implement the use of appropriate databases to track claims, delivered services, costs, etc., the ability for physicians to use a more secure identifier that is not tied to personal and financial information vulnerable to identity theft is critical. More information will be exchanging hands, more access points to that information will be available, and more opportunities for the misuse of information will exist. As physicians will be required to submit sensitive information to these databases, they must be protected from such harm.

Connecticut state statute bases its requirements for insurance claims on the CMS 1500 paper claim form that is used throughout the health-care industry for physician claims, including those that are ultimately converted by third-party billers and clearinghouses into an electronic format. Box 25 of this claim form contains a space for a physician's SSN. However, carriers do not need a physician's SSN or EIN to process claims.



Coverage is driven by the patient's eligibility. Eligibility is determined by the payer's eligibility file or other information contained on the claim. Currently, under CMS regulations, physicians are only required to use a separate identification number assigned by an agreement with the contractor.

We respectfully ask you to support **House Bill 5387 An Act Health Concerning Insurance Claims Forms and the Development of a Uniform Treatment Authorization Form For Mental Health Services.**

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.