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Connecticut State Medical Society
Testimony On Senate Bill 372
An Act Concerning Clinical Review Criteria For Utilization Review
And Adverse Determination Notices
Presented to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 15, 2016

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today on Senate Bill 372 An Act Concerning Clinical Review Criteria For Utilization Review And Adverse Determination Notices.

This bill contains several components. First, it would require health insurance carriers to post on their websites information regarding clinical review criteria and access to certain information upon which the carrier may rely in making adverse determinations. Previously, carriers only were required to provide such information to authorized government agencies upon request. CSMS supports this increased transparency that will assist physicians in understanding the criteria used by an insurer in denying care.

Second, this bill will allow health insurers to develop their own clinical review criteria for certain substance abuse and mental health issues not covered by the most recent additions publications from certain nationally accredited organizations. CSMS agrees that technology and advancements in medicine are happening at a faster pace than at any time in history. Often, technology moves faster than the process by which national organizations establish guidelines for these advances. For that reason, we understand the possible need for insurers to rely on other sources in these situations to establish separate clinical review criteria. However, we ask that this language be amended to require carriers to establish a formal process for solicitation of recommendations from local specialists and subspecialists in the respective field of medicine.