McKESSON

March 14, 2016

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: McKesson Health Solutions, a division of the McKesson Corporation, supports SB 372 as amended.

As the largest and oldest healthcare company in the country, McKesson Corporation helps our partners deliver better care to patients by providing critical technology services that make healthcare safer while reducing costs.

We applaud the Behavioral Health Working Group on their work and recommendations for utilization review and quality measures to protect behavioral health for Connecticut consumers. Their effort to assure the use of evidence-based clinical criteria that remove barriers to behavioral health treatment is commendable.

Over the last 40 years, McKesson Health Solutions has developed InterQual Criteria, an evidence-based clinical decision support criteria and related software that helps payers and providers deliver high-quality, appropriate care. InterQual has been a qualified vendor of the CT Department of Insurance since the qualifying process began in 2013.

McKesson uses a five-step, standardized evidence based development process for InterQual criteria that synthesizes valid scientific evidence and real-world best practices through peer review and a screening process by a panel of over 800 expert, practicing clinicians. InterQual criteria includes in their process references to the four nationally recognized behavioral health professional associations named in SB372, as well as other criteria which is consistent with the current evidence based clinical criteria for level of care placement. This blend of evidence-based and peer-reviewed recommendations is independently developed and updated annually by McKesson Health Solutions. We support the bill language that allows for the use of a broad range of clinical criteria to help ensure providers and care managers make the most appropriate care decisions based on each patient's individual condition.

In our support of our partners in CT, we also provide responsible sharing of our proprietary criteria through transparency tools for our utilization review criteria for patients and providers. Licensing of the InterQual intellectual property has always allowed payers to disclose relevant criteria associated with any medical necessity determination as well as the ability to be made available in online patient and/ or provider password protected portals for individual review. We fully support sharing of our criteria in this responsible manner allowing transparency to this information..

McKesson appreciates the opportunity to provide our comments and recommendations on SB372. Our solutions are designed to foster evidence based utilization and improve patient safety while reducing the cost and variability of care. We will continue to work with our partners in CT to serve their subscribers and meet the requirements of the Department of Insurance. In summary, we feel SB372 with these amendments addresses these issues appropriately.

Sincerely,

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