



Senate Bill No. 1008

Public Act No. 21-57

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH EQUITY, THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND PULSE OXIMETERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Health care provider" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-477aa of the general statutes;

(2) "Health carrier" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-1080 of the general statutes;

(3) "Insured" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-1 of the general statutes;

(4) "Pharmacist" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-479aaa of the general statutes;

(5) "Pharmacy" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-479aaa of the general statutes; and

(6) "Pharmacy benefits manager" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-479aaa of the general statutes.

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(b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Insurance Department, shall develop educational materials to ensure that each health care provider, health carrier, pharmacist, pharmacy and pharmacy benefits manager doing business in this state is informed that a pulse oximeter is more likely to produce an inaccurate blood oxygen level reading for an insured who is an individual of color as opposed to an insured who is a white individual.

(c) Not later than July 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health shall:

(1) Post the educational materials developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on the department's Internet web site; and

(2) Distribute the educational materials developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to each:

(A) Health care provider;

(B) Pharmacy; and

(C) Medical school located in this state for dissemination to such school's students.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2022*) No insurer, health care center, hospital service corporation, medical service corporation, fraternal benefit society or other entity delivering, issuing for delivery, renewing, amending or continuing an individual or group health insurance policy in this state on or after January 1, 2022, providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general statutes shall deny coverage for an otherwise covered benefit if such denial is exclusively based on an insured's blood oxygen level as measured by a pulse oximeter.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) For the purposes of this

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section:

(1) "Health carrier" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-1080 of the general statutes; and

(2) "Pharmacy benefits manager" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-479aaa of the general statutes.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2022, the Insurance Department shall:

(1) Post the educational materials developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1 of this act on the department's Internet web site; and

(2) Distribute the educational materials developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1 of this act to each health carrier and pharmacy benefits manager doing business in this state.

Approved June 16, 2021