ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FINAL REVISED

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2264

insurance; prescription eye drops; refills

Purpose

Prohibits the denial of insurance coverage for prescription eye drops under certain circumstances.

Background

Glaucoma is an eye condition in which fluid that moisturizes the eye does not drain properly. This causes fluid buildup, leading to increased pressure on the eye which can cause blindness. Increased pressure on the eye is also known as ocular hypertension. Medicines in the form of eye drops or pills can lower eye pressure and are the most common treatment for glaucoma.

States that have passed similar legislation include Kentucky, Maryland and Oregon.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Prohibits the denial of insurance coverage for refills of prescription eye drops that treat either glaucoma or ocular hypertension provided that the following apply:
   a) for a 30 day supply, the prescription refill is requested between 23 and 30 days after the original date of distribution or most recent refill date;
   b) for a 60 day supply, the prescription refill is requested between 45 and 60 days after the original date of distribution or most recent refill date;
   c) for a 90 day supply, the prescription refill is requested between 68 and 90 days after the original date of distribution or most recent refill date;
   d) the prescription eye drops are a covered benefit under the subscriber's health care provider;
   e) the health care provider indicates on the original prescription that additional quantities of the prescription will be needed; and
   f) the requested refill does not exceed the number of additional quantities subscribed.

2. Specifies that all of the above requirements apply to insurance coverage offered by:
   a) a hospital and medical service corporation;

b) a health care services organization;
c) a disability insurer; and
d) a group or blanket disability insurer.

3. Specifies that the above requirements apply to the remaining dosage of the prescription initially covered by insurance, but that any limitation of refills may not restrict coverage to any previously or subsequently approved eye drops.

4. Becomes effective on January 1, 2018.

House Action				Senate Action			
HEALTH	2/9/16	DPA	6-0-0	FI	3/2/16	DP	7-0-0
3rd Read	2/18/16		52-6-2	3rd Read	3/15/16		27-2-1

Signed by the Governor 3/17/16
Chapter 42

Prepared by Senate Research
March 23, 2016
FB/ZD/rf