

By the Committee on Health Care Standards & Regulatory Reform and Representatives Posey, Jones, King, Littlefield, Jacobs, Kelly, Brooks, Peaden, Minton and Bronson

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to managed care; amending s.  
3           627.6472, F.S.; requiring exclusive provider  
4           organizations to provide direct patient access  
5           to a dermatologist under contract with the  
6           organization and to develop criteria for  
7           compliance; providing a definition; amending s.  
8           641.31, F.S.; requiring health maintenance  
9           organizations to provide direct patient access  
10          to a dermatologist under contract with the  
11          organization and to develop criteria for  
12          compliance; providing a definition; providing  
13          an effective date.

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17           Section 1. Subsection (16) is added to section  
18           627.6472, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read:  
19                   627.6472 Exclusive provider organizations.--  
20                   (16) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to  
21                   the contrary, an exclusive provider organization which offers  
22                   dermatological services shall provide direct patient access,  
23                   for office visits and minor procedures and testing, to a  
24                   dermatologist who is under contract with the exclusive  
25                   provider organization. The term "direct patient access" means  
26                   the ability of an insured to obtain such services without a  
27                   referral or other authorization before receiving services. The  
28                   exclusive provider organization shall, by July 1, 1997,  
29                   develop criteria for compliance with the provisions of this  
30                   subsection which do not impede or inhibit access to  
31                   dermatological services for policyholders of the exclusive

1 provider organization. The criteria may include a limit of  
2 five office visits to a dermatologist, without prior  
3 authorization, for a dermatologic problem within a 12-month  
4 period.

5 Section 2. Subsection (29) is added to section 641.31,  
6 Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read:

7 641.31 Health maintenance contracts.--

8 (29) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to  
9 the contrary, a health maintenance organization which offers  
10 dermatological services shall provide direct patient access,  
11 for office visits and minor procedures and testing, to a  
12 dermatologist who is under contract with the health  
13 maintenance organization. The term "direct patient access"  
14 means the ability of a subscriber to obtain such services  
15 without a referral or other authorization before receiving  
16 services. The health maintenance organization shall, by July  
17 1, 1997, develop criteria for compliance with the provisions  
18 of this subsection which do not impede or inhibit access to  
19 dermatological services for policyholders of the health  
20 maintenance organization. The criteria may include a limit of  
21 five office visits to a dermatologist, without prior  
22 authorization, for a dermatologic problem within a 12-month  
23 period.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
25 law.