

By Representatives Sanderson, Murman, Peaden, Casey,
Farkas and Hafner

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to access to obstetrical and
3 gynecological service; amending ss. 627.6472
4 and 641.31, F.S.; requiring exclusive provider
5 organizations and health maintenance
6 organizations to provide direct patient access
7 to certain obstetrical or gynecological
8 services; prohibiting extraordinary additional
9 copayments or deductibles; providing an
10 effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Subsection (18) is added to section
15 627.6472, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

16 627.6472 Exclusive provider organizations.--

17 (18)(a) An exclusive provider organization shall
18 provide direct patient access to services provided by a
19 board-certified or board-eligible obstetrician or gynecologist
20 who is under contract with the health maintenance organization
21 if the exclusive provider organization covers obstetrical or
22 gynecological services. The term "direct patient access" means
23 the ability of a subscriber to obtain services without a
24 referral or other authorization before receiving services.

25 (b) An exclusive provider organization shall not
26 impose any additional coinsurance or deductible upon a
27 subscriber who obtains services under the provisions of this
28 subsection unless the additional copayment or deductible is
29 imposed on all other primary care physician services.

30 Section 2. Subsection (36) is added to section 641.31,
31 Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

1 641.31 Health maintenance contracts.--
2 (36)(a) A health maintenance organization shall
3 provide direct patient access to services provided by a
4 board-certified or board-eligible obstetrician or gynecologist
5 who is under contract with the health maintenance
6 organization. The term "direct patient access" means the
7 ability of a subscriber to obtain services without a referral
8 or other authorization before receiving services.
9 (b) A health maintenance organization shall not impose
10 any additional copayment upon a subscriber who obtains
11 services under the provisions of this subsection unless the
12 additional copayment is imposed on all other primary care
13 physician services.

14 Section 3. This act shall apply to contracts entered
15 into or renewed on or after October 1, 1999.

16 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 1999.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Requires exclusive provider organizations and health maintenance organizations to provide direct patient access to services provided by licensed obstetricians or gynecologists under contract with the organizations. Prohibits extraordinary additional copayments or deductibles for such access.