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CHAMBER ACTION

Senate	.	House
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4/23/2008 12:17 PM	.	

Senator Jones moved the following **amendment:**

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete line(s) 948-1081

and insert:

Section 12. Subsections (5) through (27) of section 409.901, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (6) through (28), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to that section to read:

409.901 Definitions; ss. 409.901-409.920.--As used in ss. 409.901-409.920, except as otherwise specifically provided, the term:

(5) "Change of ownership" means an event in which the provider changes to a different legal entity or in which 45 percent or more of the ownership, voting shares, or controlling interest in a corporation whose shares are not publicly traded on

a recognized stock exchange is transferred or assigned, including the final transfer or assignment of multiple transfers or assignments over a 2-year period that cumulatively total 45 percent or more. A change solely in the management company or board of directors is not a change of ownership.

Section 13. Subsections (6) and (9) of section 409.907, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.907 Medicaid provider agreements.--The agency may make payments for medical assistance and related services rendered to Medicaid recipients only to an individual or entity who has a provider agreement in effect with the agency, who is performing services or supplying goods in accordance with federal, state, and local law, and who agrees that no person shall, on the grounds of handicap, race, color, or national origin, or for any other reason, be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the provider receives payment from the agency.

(6) A Medicaid provider agreement may be revoked, at the option of the agency, as the result of a change of ownership of any facility, association, partnership, or other entity named as the provider in the provider agreement. ~~A provider shall give the agency 60 days' notice before making any change in ownership of the entity named in the provider agreement as the provider.~~

(a) In the event of a change of ownership, the transferor remains liable for all outstanding overpayments, administrative fines, and any other moneys owed to the agency before the effective date of the change of ownership. In addition to the continuing liability of the transferor, the transferee is liable to the agency for all outstanding overpayments identified by the agency on or before the effective date of the change of ownership. For purposes of this subsection, the term "outstanding

overpayment" includes any amount identified in a preliminary audit report issued to the transferor by the agency on or before the effective date of the change of ownership. In the event of a change of ownership for a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility, the Medicaid provider agreement shall be assigned to the transferee if the transferee meets all other Medicaid provider qualifications. In the event of a change of ownership involving a skilled nursing facility licensed under part II of chapter 400, liability for all outstanding overpayments, administrative fines, and any moneys owed to the agency before the effective date of the change of ownership shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of s. 400.179.

(b) At least 60 days before the anticipated date of the change of ownership, the transferor shall notify the agency of the intended change of ownership and the transferee shall submit to the agency a Medicaid provider enrollment application. If a change of ownership occurs without compliance with the notice requirements of this subsection, the transferor and transferee shall be jointly and severally liable for all overpayments, administrative fines, and other moneys due to the agency, regardless of whether the agency identified the overpayments, administrative fines, or other moneys before or after the effective date of the change of ownership. The agency may not approve a transferee's Medicaid provider enrollment application if the transferee or transferor has not paid or agreed in writing to a payment plan for all outstanding overpayments, administrative fines, and other moneys due to the agency. This subsection does not preclude the agency from seeking any other legal or equitable remedies available to the agency for the recovery of moneys owed to the Medicaid program. In the event of

a change of ownership involving a skilled nursing facility licensed under part II of chapter 400, liability for all outstanding overpayments, administrative fines, and any moneys owed to the agency before the effective date of the change of ownership shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of s. 400.179 if the Medicaid provider enrollment application for change of ownership is submitted before the change of ownership.

(9) Upon receipt of a completed, signed, and dated application, and completion of any necessary background investigation and criminal history record check, the agency must either:

(a) Enroll the applicant as a Medicaid provider upon approval of the provider application. The enrollment effective date shall be the date the agency receives the provider application. With respect to a provider that requires a Medicare certification survey, the enrollment effective date is the date the certification is awarded. With respect to a provider that completes a change of ownership, the effective date is the date the agency received the application, the date the change of ownership was complete, or the date the applicant became eligible to provide services under Medicaid, whichever date is later. With respect to a provider of emergency medical services transportation or emergency services and care, the effective date is the date the services were rendered. Payment for any claims for services provided to Medicaid recipients between the date of receipt of the application and the date of approval is contingent on applying any and all applicable audits and edits contained in the agency's claims adjudication and payment processing systems; or

(b) Deny the application if the agency finds that it is in the best interest of the Medicaid program to do so. The agency may consider the factors listed in subsection (10), as well as any other factor that could affect the effective and efficient administration of the program, including, but not limited to, the applicant's demonstrated ability to provide services, conduct business, and operate a financially viable concern; the current availability of medical care, services, or supplies to recipients, taking into account geographic location and reasonable travel time; the number of providers of the same type already enrolled in the same geographic area; and the credentials, experience, success, and patient outcomes of the provider for the services that it is making application to provide in the Medicaid program. The agency shall deny the application if the agency finds that a provider; any officer, director, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person; or any partner or shareholder having an ownership interest equal to 5 percent or greater in the provider if the provider is a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, has failed to pay all outstanding fines or overpayments assessed by final order of the agency or final order of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, not subject to further appeal, unless the provider agrees to a repayment plan that includes withholding Medicaid reimbursement until the amount due is paid in full.

Section 14. Subsection (20) of section 409.910, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.910 Responsibility for payments on behalf of Medicaid-eligible persons when other parties are liable.--

(20) Entities providing health insurance as defined in s. 624.603, health maintenance organizations and prepaid health

clinics as defined in chapter 641, and, on behalf of their clients, third-party administrators and pharmacy benefits managers as defined in s. 409.901 (27) ~~s. 409.901(26)~~ shall provide such records and information as are necessary to accomplish the purpose of this section, unless such requirement results in an unreasonable burden.

(a) The director of the agency and the Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial Services Commission shall enter into a cooperative agreement for requesting and obtaining information necessary to effect the purpose and objective of this section.

1. The agency shall request only that information necessary to determine whether health insurance as defined pursuant to s. 624.603, or those health services provided pursuant to chapter 641, could be, should be, or have been claimed and paid with respect to items of medical care and services furnished to any person eligible for services under this section.

2. All information obtained pursuant to subparagraph 1. is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1).

3. The cooperative agreement or rules adopted under this subsection may include financial arrangements to reimburse the reporting entities for reasonable costs or a portion thereof incurred in furnishing the requested information. Neither the cooperative agreement nor the rules shall require the automation of manual processes to provide the requested information.

(b) The agency and the Financial Services Commission jointly shall adopt rules for the development and administration of the cooperative agreement. The rules shall include the following:

1. A method for identifying those entities subject to furnishing information under the cooperative agreement.

2. A method for furnishing requested information.

3. Procedures for requesting exemption from the cooperative agreement based on an unreasonable burden to the reporting entity.

Section 15. Subsection (48) of section 409.912, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.912 Cost-effective purchasing of health care.--The agency shall purchase goods and services for Medicaid recipients in the most cost-effective manner consistent with the delivery of quality medical care. To ensure that medical services are effectively utilized, the agency may, in any case, require a confirmation or second physician's opinion of the correct diagnosis for purposes of authorizing future services under the Medicaid program. This section does not restrict access to emergency services or poststabilization care services as defined in 42 C.F.R. part 438.114. Such confirmation or second opinion shall be rendered in a manner approved by the agency. The agency shall maximize the use of prepaid per capita and prepaid aggregate fixed-sum basis services when appropriate and other alternative service delivery and reimbursement methodologies, including competitive bidding pursuant to s. 287.057, designed to facilitate the cost-effective purchase of a case-managed continuum of care. The agency shall also require providers to minimize the exposure of recipients to the need for acute inpatient, custodial, and other institutional care and the inappropriate or unnecessary use of high-cost services. The agency shall contract with a vendor to monitor and evaluate the clinical practice patterns of providers in order to identify

trends that are outside the normal practice patterns of a provider's professional peers or the national guidelines of a provider's professional association. The vendor must be able to provide information and counseling to a provider whose practice patterns are outside the norms, in consultation with the agency, to improve patient care and reduce inappropriate utilization. The agency may mandate prior authorization, drug therapy management, or disease management participation for certain populations of Medicaid beneficiaries, certain drug classes, or particular drugs to prevent fraud, abuse, overuse, and possible dangerous drug interactions. The Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee shall make recommendations to the agency on drugs for which prior authorization is required. The agency shall inform the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee of its decisions regarding drugs subject to prior authorization. The agency is authorized to limit the entities it contracts with or enrolls as Medicaid providers by developing a provider network through provider credentialing. The agency may competitively bid single-source-provider contracts if procurement of goods or services results in demonstrated cost savings to the state without limiting access to care. The agency may limit its network based on the assessment of beneficiary access to care, provider availability, provider quality standards, time and distance standards for access to care, the cultural competence of the provider network, demographic characteristics of Medicaid beneficiaries, practice and provider-to-beneficiary standards, appointment wait times, beneficiary use of services, provider turnover, provider profiling, provider licensure history, previous program integrity investigations and findings, peer review, provider Medicaid policy and billing compliance records,

clinical and medical record audits, and other factors. Providers shall not be entitled to enrollment in the Medicaid provider network. The agency shall determine instances in which allowing Medicaid beneficiaries to purchase durable medical equipment and other goods is less expensive to the Medicaid program than long-term rental of the equipment or goods. The agency may establish rules to facilitate purchases in lieu of long-term rentals in order to protect against fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program as defined in s. 409.913. The agency may seek federal waivers necessary to administer these policies.

(48)(a) A provider is not entitled to enrollment in the Medicaid provider network. The agency may implement a Medicaid fee-for-service provider network controls, including, but not limited to, competitive procurement and provider credentialing. If a credentialing process is used, the agency may limit its provider network based upon the following considerations: beneficiary access to care, provider availability, provider quality standards and quality assurance processes, cultural competency, demographic characteristics of beneficiaries, practice standards, service wait times, provider turnover, provider licensure and accreditation history, program integrity history, peer review, Medicaid policy and billing compliance records, clinical and medical record audit findings, and such other areas that are considered necessary by the agency to ensure the integrity of the program.

(b) The agency shall limit its network of durable medical equipment and medical supply providers. For dates of service after January 1, 2009, the agency shall limit payment for durable medical equipment and supplies to providers that meet all the requirements of this paragraph.

1. Providers must be accredited by a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services deemed accreditation organization for suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies. The provider must maintain accreditation and is subject to unannounced reviews by the accrediting organization.

2. Providers must provide the services or supplies directly to the Medicaid recipient or caregiver at the provider location or recipient's residence or send the supplies directly to the recipient's residence with receipt of mailed delivery. Subcontracting or consignment of the service or supply to a third party is prohibited.

3. Notwithstanding subparagraph 2., a durable medical equipment provider may store nebulizers at a physician's office for the purpose of having the physician's staff issue the equipment if it meets all of the following conditions:

a. The physician must document the medical necessity and need to prevent further deterioration of the patient's respiratory status by the timely delivery of the nebulizer in the physician's office.

b. The durable medical equipment provider must have written documentation of the competency and training by a Florida-licensed registered respiratory therapist of any durable medical equipment staff who participate in the training of physician office staff for the use of nebulizers, including cleaning, warranty, and special needs of patients.

c. The physician's office must have documented the training and competency of any staff member who initiates the delivery of nebulizers to patients. The durable medical equipment provider must maintain copies of all physician office training.

d. The physician's office must maintain inventory records of stored nebulizers, including documentation of the durable medical equipment provider source.

e. A physician contracted with a Medicaid durable medical equipment provider may not have a financial relationship with that provider or receive any financial gain from the delivery of nebulizers to patients.

4. Providers must have a physical business location and a functional landline business phone. The location must be within the state or not more than 50 miles from the Florida state line. The agency may make exceptions for providers of durable medical equipment or supplies not otherwise available from other enrolled providers located within the state.

5. Physical business locations must be clearly identified as a business that furnishes durable medical equipment or medical supplies by signage that can be read from 20 feet away. The location must be readily accessible to the public during normal, posted business hours and must operate no less than 5 hours per day and no less than 5 days per week, with the exception of scheduled and posted holidays. The location may not be located within or at the same numbered street address as another enrolled Medicaid durable medical equipment or medical supply provider or as an enrolled Medicaid pharmacy that is also enrolled as a durable medical equipment provider. A licensed orthotist or prosthetist that provides only orthotic or prosthetic devices as a Medicaid durable medical equipment provider is exempt from the provisions in this paragraph.

6. Providers must maintain a stock of durable medical equipment and medical supplies on site that is readily available

to meet the needs of the durable medical equipment business location's customers.

7. Providers must provide a surety bond of $50,000 for each provider location, up to a maximum of 5 bonds statewide or an aggregate bond of $250,000 statewide, as identified by Federal Employer Identification Number. Providers who post a statewide or an aggregate bond must identify all of their locations in any Medicaid durable medical equipment and medical supply provider enrollment application or bond renewal. Each provider location's surety bond must be renewed annually and the provider must submit proof of renewal even if the original bond is a continuous bond. A licensed orthotist or prosthetist that provides only orthotic or prosthetic devices as a Medicaid durable medical equipment provider is exempt from the provisions in this paragraph.

8. Providers must obtain a level 2 background screening, as provided under s. 435.04, for each provider employee in direct contact with or providing direct services to recipients of durable medical equipment and medical supplies in their homes. This requirement includes, but is not limited to, repair and service technicians, fitters, and delivery staff. The provider shall pay for the cost of the background screening.

9. The following providers are exempt from the requirements of subparagraphs 1. and 6.:

a. Durable medical equipment providers owned and operated by a government entity.

b. Durable medical equipment providers that are operating within a pharmacy that is currently enrolled as a Medicaid pharmacy provider.

c. Active, Medicaid-enrolled orthopedic physician groups, primarily owned by physicians, which provide only orthotic and prosthetic devices.

Section 16. The Agency for Health Care Administration shall review the process, procedures, and contractor's performance for the prior authorization of home health agency visits that are in excess of 60 visits over the lifetime of a Medicaid recipient. The agency shall determine whether modifications are necessary in order to reduce Medicaid fraud and abuse related to home health services for a Medicaid recipient which are not medically necessary. If modifications to the prior authorization function are necessary, the agency shall amend the contract to require contractor performance that reduces potential Medicaid fraud and abuse with respect to home health agency visits.

Section 17. The Agency for Health Care Administration shall report to the Legislature by January 1, 2009, on the feasibility and costs of accessing the Medicare system to disallow Medicaid payment for home health services that are paid for under the Medicare prospective payment system for recipients who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

========== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ==========

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line(s) 89-106

and insert:

exchange for patient referrals; amending s, 409.901, F.S.; defining the term "change of ownership"; amending s. 409.907, F.S.; revising provisions relating to change of

ownership of Medicaid provider agreements; providing for continuing financial liability of a transferor under certain circumstances; defining the term "outstanding overpayment"; requiring the transferor to provide notice of change of ownership to the agency within a specified time period; requiring the transferee to submit a Medicaid provider enrollment application to the agency; providing for joint and several liability under certain circumstances; requiring a written payment plan for certain outstanding financial obligations; providing conditions under which additional enrollment effective dates apply; amending s. 409.910, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 409.912, F.S.; requiring the agency to limit its network of Medicaid durable medical equipment and medical supply providers; prohibiting reimbursement for dates of service after a certain date; requiring accreditation; requiring direct provision of services or supplies; authorizing a provider to store nebulizers at a physician's office under certain circumstances; imposing certain physical location requirements; requiring a provider to maintain a certain stock of equipment and supplies; requiring a surety bond; requiring background screenings of employees; providing for certain exemptions; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to review the process for prior authorization of home health agency visits and determine whether modifications to the process are necessary; requiring the agency to report to the Legislature on the feasibility of accessing the Medicare system to determine recipient eligibility for home health services;