

26 (3)(a) Notwithstanding s. 440.13(2)(c), a firefighter, law
27 enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional
28 probation officer requiring medical treatment for a compensable
29 presumptive condition listed in subsection (1) may be treated by
30 a medical specialist. Except in emergency situations, a
31 firefighter, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or
32 correctional probation officer entitled to access a medical
33 specialist under this subsection must provide written notice of
34 his or her selection of a medical specialist to the
35 firefighter's or officer's workers compensation carrier, self-
36 insured employer, or third-party administrator, and the carrier,
37 self-insured employer, or third-party administrator must
38 authorize the selected medical specialist or authorize an
39 alternative medical specialist with the same or greater
40 qualifications. Within 5 business days after receipt of the
41 written notice, the workers compensation carrier, self-insured
42 employer, or third-party administrator must authorize treatment
43 and schedule an appointment, which must be held within 30 days
44 after receipt of the written notice, with the selected medical
45 specialist or the alternative medical specialist. If the workers
46 compensation carrier, self-insured employer, or third-party
47 administrator fails to authorize an alternative medical
48 specialist within 5 business days after receipt of the written
49 notice, the medical specialist selected by the firefighter or
50 officer is authorized. The continuing care and treatment by a

CS/HB 637

2024

51 medical specialist must be reasonable, necessary, and related to
52 tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension; be reimbursed at
53 no more than 200 percent of the Medicare rate; and be authorized
54 by the firefighter's or officer's workers compensation carrier,
55 self-insured employer, or third-party administrator.

56 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "medical
57 specialist" means a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
58 chapter 459 who has board certification in a medical specialty
59 inclusive of care and treatment of tuberculosis, heart disease,
60 or hypertension.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.