



Sen. William R. Haine

Filed: 4/25/2012

09700SB2721sam001

LRB097 16120 RPM 68846 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 2721

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 2721 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Exclusive Provider Benefit Plan Act.

6 Section 5. For the purposes of this Act:

7 "Clinical peer" means a health care professional who is in
8 the same profession and the same or similar specialty as the
9 health care provider who typically manages the medical
10 condition, procedures, or treatment under review.

11 "Department" means the Department of Insurance.

12 "Director" means the Director of Insurance.

13 "Emergency services" means, with respect to an enrollee of
14 a health care plan, transportation services, including, but not
15 limited to, ambulance services, and covered inpatient and
16 outpatient hospital services furnished by a provider qualified

1 to furnish those services that are needed to evaluate or
2 stabilize an emergency medical condition. "Emergency services"
3 does not include post-stabilization medical services.

4 "Enrollee" means any person and his or her dependents
5 enrolled in or covered by an exclusive provider benefit plan.

6 "Exclusive provider" means a provider or health care
7 provider, or an organization of providers or health care
8 providers, who contracts with an insurer to provide medical
9 care or health care to insureds covered by a health insurance
10 policy.

11 "Exclusive provider benefit plan" means a benefit plan in
12 which an insurer contracts with a provider to provide some
13 services to an insured, not including emergency care services
14 required under Section 65 of the Managed Care Reform and
15 Patients Right Act, provided by a health care provider who is a
16 non-exclusive provider.

17 "Health care provider" means a provider, institutional
18 provider, or other person or organization that furnishes health
19 care services and that is licensed or otherwise authorized to
20 practice in this State.

21 "Health care services" means any services included in the
22 furnishing of medical care to any individual, or the
23 hospitalization incident to the furnishing of such care, as
24 well as the furnishing to any person of any and all other
25 services for the purpose of preventing, alleviating, curing, or
26 healing human illness or injury.

1 "Health insurance policy" means a group or individual
2 insurance policy, certificate, or contract providing benefits
3 for medical or surgical expenses incurred as a result of an
4 accident or sickness.

5 "Hospital" means an institution licensed under the
6 Hospital Licensing Act, an institution that meets all
7 comparable conditions and requirements in effect in the state
8 in which it is located, or the University of Illinois Hospital
9 as defined in the University of Illinois Hospital Act.

10 "Institutional provider" means a hospital, nursing home,
11 or other medical or health-related service facility that
12 provides care for the sick or injured or other care that may be
13 covered in a health insurance policy.

14 "Insurer" means an insurance company or a health service
15 corporation authorized in this State to issue policies or
16 subscriber contracts that reimburse for expense of health care
17 services.

18 "Post-stabilization medical services" means health care
19 services provided to an enrollee that are furnished in a
20 licensed hospital by a provider that is qualified to furnish
21 such services, and determined to be medically necessary and
22 directly related to the emergency medical condition following
23 stabilization.

24 "Preauthorization" means a determination by an insurer
25 that medical care or health care services proposed to be
26 provided to a patient are medically necessary and appropriate.

1 "Provider" means an individual or entity duly licensed or
2 legally authorized to provide health care services.

3 "Service area" means a geographic area or areas specified
4 in an exclusive provider benefit contract in which a network of
5 exclusive providers is offered and available.

6 "Stabilization" means, with respect to an emergency
7 medical condition, to provide such medical treatment of the
8 condition as may be necessary to ensure, within reasonable
9 medical probability, that no material deterioration of the
10 condition is likely to result.

11 Section 10. Exclusive provider benefit plans permitted. An
12 exclusive provider benefit plan that meets the requirements of
13 this Act shall be permitted. To the extent of any conflict
14 between this Section and any other statutory provision, this
15 Section prevails over the conflicting provision. The Director
16 of Insurance may adopt rules necessary to implement the
17 Department's responsibilities under this Act.

18 Section 15. Applicability of this Act.

19 (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided by this
20 Section, this Section applies to each individual or group
21 exclusive provider benefit plan in which an insurer provides,
22 through the insurer's health insurance policy, for the payment
23 of coverage only for the use of an exclusive provider network,
24 other than the use of a non-exclusive provider for emergency

1 care services.

2 (b) Unless otherwise specified, an exclusive provider
3 benefit plan is subject to this Section.

4 (c) This Act does not apply to:

5 (1) the Children's Health Insurance Program under the
6 Children's Health Insurance Program Act;

7 (2) a Medicaid managed care program under Article V of
8 the Illinois Public Aid Code; or

9 (3) an HMO under Article I of the Health Maintenance
10 Organization Act.

11 (d) An insurer duly licensed under the laws of this State
12 may offer exclusive provider benefit plans to individuals and
13 group health plans in conformity with the terms set forth in
14 this Section. An insurer shall not be required to be licensed
15 as an HMO under the Health Maintenance Organization Act in
16 order to offer exclusive provider benefit plans under this
17 Section.

18 Section 20. Applicability of Health Carrier External
19 Review Act. The Health Carrier External Review Act shall apply
20 to an exclusive provider benefit plan, except to the extent
21 that the Director determines the provision to be inconsistent
22 with the function and purpose of an exclusive provider benefit
23 plan.

24 Section 25. Construction of Act.

1 (a) This Act may not be construed to limit the level of
2 reimbursement or the level of coverage, including deductibles,
3 copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing provisions,
4 that are applicable to exclusive providers.

5 (b) Except as specifically provided for in this Act, this
6 Act may not be construed to require an exclusive provider
7 benefit plan to compensate a non-exclusive provider for
8 services provided to an insured.

9 Section 30. Provision of information.

10 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall provide
11 annually to enrollees and prospective enrollees, upon request,
12 a complete list of exclusive providers in the exclusive
13 provider benefit plan service area and a description of the
14 following terms of coverage:

15 (1) the service area;

16 (2) the covered benefits and services with all
17 exclusions, exceptions, and limitations;

18 (3) the pre-certification and other utilization
19 review, if applicable, procedures and requirements;

20 (4) a description of any limitation on access to
21 specialists, and the plan's standing referral policy;

22 (5) the emergency coverage and benefits, including any
23 restrictions on emergency care services;

24 (6) the out-of-area coverage and benefits, if any;

25 (7) the enrollee's financial responsibility for

1 copayments, deductibles, premiums, and any other
2 out-of-pocket expenses;

3 (8) the provisions for continuity of treatment in the
4 event an exclusive provider's participation terminates
5 during the course of an enrollee's treatment by that
6 exclusive provider;

7 (9) the appeals process, forms, and time frames for
8 health care services appeals, complaints, and external
9 independent reviews, administrative complaints, and
10 utilization review complaints, if applicable, including a
11 phone number to call to receive more information from the
12 exclusive provider benefits plan concerning the appeals
13 process; and

14 (10) a statement of all basic health care services and
15 all specific benefits and services mandated to be provided
16 to enrollees by any State law or administrative rule.

17 In the event of an inconsistency between any separate
18 written disclosure statement and the enrollee contract or
19 certificate, the terms of the enrollee contract or certificate
20 shall control.

21 (b) Upon written request, an exclusive provider benefit
22 plan shall provide to enrollees a description of the financial
23 relationships between the exclusive provider benefit plan and
24 any health care provider and, if requested, the percentage of
25 copayments, deductibles, and total premiums spent on
26 healthcare related expenses and the percentage of copayments,

1 deductibles, and total premiums spent on other expenses,
2 including administrative expenses, except that no exclusive
3 provider benefit plan shall be required to disclose specific
4 provider reimbursement.

5 (c) An exclusive provider shall provide all of the
6 following, where applicable, to enrollees upon request:

7 (1) Information related to the exclusive provider's
8 educational background, experience, training, specialty,
9 and board certification, if applicable.

10 (2) The names of licensed facilities on the provider
11 panel where the exclusive provider presently has
12 privileges for the treatment, illness, or procedure that is
13 the subject of the request.

14 (3) Information regarding the exclusive provider's
15 participation in continuing education programs and
16 compliance with any licensure, certification, or
17 registration requirements, if applicable.

18 (d) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall provide the
19 information required to be disclosed under this Act upon
20 enrollment and annually thereafter in a legible and
21 understandable format. The Department of Insurance shall adopt
22 rules to establish the format based, to the extent practical,
23 on the standards developed for supplemental insurance coverage
24 under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act as a
25 guide, so that a person can compare the attributes of the
26 various health care plans.

1 (e) An identification card or similar document issued by an
2 insurer to an insured in an exclusive provider benefit plan
3 must display:

4 (1) a toll-free number that a physician or health care
5 provider may use to obtain the date on which the insured
6 became insured under the plan; and

7 (2) the acronym "EPO" or the phrase "Exclusive Provider
8 Organization" on the card in a location of the insurer's
9 choice.

10 (f) The written disclosure requirements of this Section may
11 be met by disclosure to one enrollee in a household.

12 Section 35. Availability of exclusive providers.

13 (a) An insurer offering an exclusive provider benefit plan
14 shall ensure that the exclusive provider benefits are
15 reasonably available to all insureds within a designated
16 service area.

17 (b) If services are not available through an exclusive
18 provider within a designated service area under an exclusive
19 provider benefit plan, an insurer shall reimburse a physician
20 or health care provider who is a non-exclusive provider at the
21 same percentage level of benefit as an exclusive provider would
22 have been reimbursed had the insured been treated by an
23 exclusive provider.

24 Section 40. Notice of nonrenewal or termination. An

1 exclusive provider benefit plan must give at least 60 days
2 notice of nonrenewal or termination of an exclusive provider to
3 the exclusive provider and to the enrollees served by the
4 exclusive provider. The notice shall include a name and address
5 to which an enrollee or exclusive provider may direct comments
6 and concerns regarding the nonrenewal or termination.
7 Immediate written notice may be provided without 60 days notice
8 when a health care provider's license has been disciplined by a
9 state licensing board.

10 Section 45. Transition of service.

11 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall provide for
12 continuity of care for its enrollees as follows:

13 (1) If an enrollee's physician leaves the exclusive
14 provider benefit plan's network of health care providers
15 for reasons other than termination of a contract in
16 situations involving imminent harm to a patient or a final
17 disciplinary action by a state licensing board and the
18 physician remains within the exclusive provider benefit
19 plan's service area, the exclusive provider benefit plan
20 shall permit the enrollee to continue an ongoing course of
21 treatment with that physician during a transitional
22 period:

23 (A) of 90 days after the date of the notice of the
24 physician's termination from the health care plan to
25 the enrollee of the physician's disaffiliation from

1 the health care plan if the enrollee has an ongoing
2 course of treatment; or

3 (B) that includes the provision of post-partum
4 care directly related to the delivery, if the enrollee
5 has entered the third trimester of pregnancy at the
6 time of the physician's disaffiliation.

7 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (1) of
8 this subsection (a), such care shall be authorized by the
9 exclusive provider benefit plan during the transitional
10 period only if the physician agrees:

11 (A) to continue to accept reimbursement from the
12 exclusive provider benefit plan at the rates
13 applicable prior to the start of the transitional
14 period;

15 (B) to adhere to the exclusive provider benefit
16 plan's quality assurance requirements and to provide
17 to the exclusive provider benefit plan necessary
18 medical information related to such care; and

19 (C) to otherwise adhere to the exclusive provider
20 benefit plan's policies and procedures, including, but
21 not limited to, procedures regarding referrals and
22 obtaining preauthorizations for treatment.

23 (b) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall provide for
24 continuity of care for new enrollees as follows:

25 (1) If a new enrollee whose physician is not a member
26 of the exclusive provider benefit plan's provider network,

1 but is within the exclusive provider benefit plan's service
2 area, enrolls in the exclusive provider benefit plan, the
3 exclusive provider benefit plan shall permit the enrollee
4 to continue an ongoing course of treatment with the
5 enrollee's current physician during a transitional period:

6 (A) of 90 days after the effective date of
7 enrollment if the enrollee has an ongoing course of
8 treatment; or

9 (B) that includes the provision of post-partum
10 care directly related to the delivery, if the enrollee
11 has entered the third trimester of pregnancy at the
12 effective date of enrollment.

13 (2) If an enrollee elects to continue to receive care
14 from such physician pursuant to paragraph (1) of this
15 subsection (a), such care shall be authorized by the
16 exclusive provider benefit plan for the transitional
17 period only if the physician agrees:

18 (A) to accept reimbursement from the exclusive
19 provider benefit plan at rates established by the
20 exclusive provider benefit plan; such rates shall be
21 the level of reimbursement applicable to similar
22 physicians within the exclusive provider benefit plan
23 for such services;

24 (B) to adhere to the exclusive provider benefit
25 plan's quality assurance requirements and to provide
26 to the exclusive provider benefit plan necessary

1 medical information related to such care; and

2 (C) to otherwise adhere to the exclusive provider
3 benefit plan's policies and procedures, including, but
4 not limited to, procedures regarding referrals and
5 obtaining preauthorization for treatment.

6 (c) In no event shall this Section be construed to require
7 an exclusive provider benefit plan to provide coverage for
8 benefits not otherwise covered or to diminish or impair
9 preexisting condition limitations contained in the enrollee's
10 contract.

11 Section 50. Prohibitions.

12 (a) No exclusive provider benefit plan or its
13 subcontractors may prohibit or discourage health care
14 providers by contract or policy from discussing any health care
15 services and health care providers, utilization review, if
16 applicable, and quality assurance policies, terms, and
17 conditions of plans, and plan policy with enrollees,
18 prospective enrollees, providers, or the public.

19 (b) No exclusive provider benefit plan by contract, written
20 policy, or procedure may permit or allow an individual or
21 entity to dispense a different drug in place of the drug or
22 brand of drug ordered or prescribed without the express
23 permission of the person ordering or prescribing the drug,
24 except as provided under Section 3.14 of the Illinois Food,
25 Drug and Cosmetic Act.

1 Section 55. Exclusive provider benefit plans; access to
2 specialists.

3 (a) When the type of specialist physician or other health
4 care provider needed to provide care for a specific condition
5 is not represented in the exclusive provider benefit plan's
6 network, the exclusive provider benefit plan shall allow for
7 the enrollee to have access to a non-exclusive provider within
8 a reasonable distance and travel time at no additional cost
9 beyond what the enrollee would otherwise pay for services
10 received within the network if it is determined by a licensed
11 clinical peer that the service or treatment of the specific
12 condition is medically necessary and such services or
13 treatments are not available through the exclusive provider
14 benefit plan network. Coverage for all services performed in
15 accordance with this Section shall be at the same benefit level
16 as if the service or treatment had been rendered by an
17 exclusive provider.

18 (b) If an exclusive provider benefit plan denies an
19 enrollee's request for a specialist physician or other health
20 care provider that is not represented in the exclusive provider
21 benefit plan's network, an enrollee may appeal the decision
22 through the exclusive provider benefit plan's external
23 independent review process as provided by the Health Carrier
24 External Review Act.

1 Section 60. Health care services appeals, complaints, and
2 external independent reviews.

3 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall establish and
4 maintain an appeals procedure as outlined in this Act.
5 Compliance with this Act's appeals procedures shall satisfy an
6 exclusive provider benefit plan's obligation to provide appeal
7 procedures under any other State law or rules.

8 (b) When an appeal concerns a decision or action by an
9 exclusive provider benefit plan, its employees, or its
10 subcontractors that relates to (i) health care services,
11 including, but not limited to, procedures or treatments, for an
12 enrollee with an ongoing course of treatment ordered by a
13 health care provider, the denial of which could significantly
14 increase the risk to an enrollee's health or (ii) a treatment
15 referral, service, procedure, or other health care service, the
16 denial of which could significantly increase the risk to an
17 enrollee's health, the exclusive provider benefit plan must
18 allow for the filing of an appeal either orally or in writing.
19 Upon submission of the appeal, an exclusive provider benefit
20 plan must notify the party filing the appeal as soon as
21 possible, but in no event more than 24 hours after the
22 submission of the appeal, of all information that the exclusive
23 provider benefit plan requires to evaluate the appeal. The
24 exclusive provider benefit plan shall render a decision on the
25 appeal within 24 hours after receipt of the required
26 information. The exclusive provider benefit plan shall notify

1 the party filing the appeal and the enrollee and any health
2 care provider who recommended the health care service involved
3 in the appeal of its decision orally, followed up by a written
4 notice of the determination.

5 (c) For all appeals related to health care services,
6 including, but not limited to, procedures or treatments for an
7 enrollee, not covered by subsection (b) of this Section, the
8 exclusive provider benefit plan shall establish a procedure for
9 the filing of such appeals. Upon submission of an appeal under
10 this subsection (c), an exclusive provider benefit plan must
11 notify the party filing an appeal, within 3 business days after
12 the submission, of all information that the plan requires to
13 evaluate the appeal. The exclusive provider benefit plan shall
14 render a decision on the appeal within 15 business days after
15 receipt of the required information. The health care plan shall
16 notify the party filing the appeal, the enrollee, and any
17 health care provider who recommended the health care service
18 involved in the appeal orally of its decision, followed up by a
19 written notice of the determination.

20 (d) An appeal under subsections (b) or (c) of this Section
21 may be filed by the enrollee, the enrollee's designee or
22 guardian, or the enrollee's health care provider. An exclusive
23 provider benefit plan shall designate a clinical peer to review
24 appeals, because these appeals pertain to medical or clinical
25 matters and such an appeal must be reviewed by an appropriate
26 health care professional. No one reviewing an appeal may have

1 had any involvement in the initial determination that is the
2 subject of the appeal. The written notice of determination
3 required under subsections (b) and (c) shall include (i) clear
4 and detailed reasons for the determination, (ii) the medical or
5 clinical criteria for the determination, which shall be based
6 upon sound clinical evidence and reviewed on a periodic basis,
7 and (iii) in the case of an adverse determination, the
8 procedures for requesting an external independent review as
9 provided by the Health Carrier External Review Act.

10 (e) If an appeal filed under subsections (b) or (c) is
11 denied for a reason, including, but not limited to, the
12 service, procedure, or treatment is not viewed as medically
13 necessary, denial of specific tests or procedures, denial of
14 referral to specialist physicians or denial of hospitalization
15 requests or length of stay requests, any involved party may
16 request an external independent review as provided by the
17 Health Carrier External Review Act.

18 (f) Future contractual or employment action by the
19 exclusive provider benefit plan regarding the patient's
20 physician or other health care provider shall not be based
21 solely on the physician's or other health care provider's
22 participation in health care services appeals, complaints, or
23 external independent reviews under the Health Carrier External
24 Review Act.

25 (g) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require
26 an exclusive provider benefit plan to pay for a health care

1 service not covered under the enrollee's certificate of
2 coverage or policy.

3 Section 65. Emergency services prior to stabilization.

4 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan that provides or
5 that is required by law to provide coverage for emergency
6 services shall provide coverage such that payment under this
7 coverage is not dependent upon whether the services are
8 performed by a plan or non-plan health care provider and
9 without regard to prior authorization. This coverage shall be
10 at the same benefit level as if the services or treatment had
11 been rendered by the health care plan physician licensed to
12 practice medicine in all its branches or health care provider.

13 (b) Prior authorization or approval by the plan shall not
14 be required for emergency services.

15 (c) Coverage and payment shall only be retrospectively
16 denied under the following circumstances:

17 (1) upon reasonable determination that the emergency
18 services claimed were never performed;

19 (2) upon timely determination that the emergency
20 evaluation and treatment were rendered to an enrollee who
21 sought emergency services and whose circumstance did not
22 meet the definition of emergency medical condition;

23 (3) upon determination that the patient receiving such
24 services was not an enrollee of the health care plan; or

25 (4) upon material misrepresentation by the enrollee or

1 health care provider.

2 For the purposes of this subsection (c), "material" means a
3 fact or situation that is not merely technical in nature and
4 results or could result in a substantial change in the
5 situation.

6 (d) When an enrollee presents to a hospital seeking
7 emergency services, the determination as to whether the need
8 for those services exists shall be made for purposes of
9 treatment by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all
10 its branches or, to the extent permitted by applicable law, by
11 other appropriately licensed personnel under the supervision
12 of or in collaboration with a physician licensed to practice
13 medicine in all its branches. The physician or other
14 appropriate personnel shall indicate in the patient's chart the
15 results of the emergency medical screening examination.

16 (e) The appropriate use of the 9-1-1 emergency telephone
17 system or its local equivalent shall not be discouraged or
18 penalized by the exclusive provider benefit plan when an
19 emergency medical condition exists. This provision shall not
20 imply that the use of the 9-1-1 emergency telephone system or
21 its local equivalent is a factor in determining the existence
22 of an emergency medical condition.

23 (f) The medical director's or his or her designee's
24 determination of whether the enrollee meets the standard of an
25 emergency medical condition shall be based solely upon the
26 presenting symptoms documented in the medical record at the

1 time care was sought. Only a clinical peer may make an adverse
2 determination.

3 (g) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the imposition
4 of deductibles, copayments, and co-insurance.

5 Section 70. Post-stabilization medical services.

6 (a) If prior authorization for covered post-stabilization
7 services is required by the exclusive provider benefit plan,
8 the plan shall provide access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to
9 persons designated by the plan to make such determinations,
10 provided that any determination made under this Section must be
11 made by a health care professional.

12 (b) The treating physician licensed to practice medicine in
13 all its branches or health care provider shall contact the
14 exclusive provider benefit plan or delegated health care
15 provider as designated on the enrollee's health insurance card
16 to obtain authorization, denial, or arrangements for an
17 alternate plan of treatment or transfer of the enrollee.

18 (c) The treating physician licensed to practice medicine in
19 all its branches or health care provider shall document in the
20 enrollee's medical record the enrollee's presenting symptoms;
21 emergency medical condition; and time, phone number dialed, and
22 result of the communication for request for authorization of
23 post-stabilization medical services. The exclusive provider
24 benefit plan shall provide reimbursement for covered
25 post-stabilization medical services if:

1 (1) authorization to render them is received from the
2 exclusive provider benefit plan or its delegated health
3 care provider; or

4 (2) after 2 documented good faith efforts, the treating
5 health care provider has attempted to contact the
6 enrollee's exclusive provider benefit plan or its
7 delegated health care provider, as designated on the
8 enrollee's health insurance card, for prior authorization
9 of post-stabilization medical services and neither the
10 plan nor designated persons were accessible or the
11 authorization was not denied within 60 minutes of the
12 request.

13 For the purposes of this subsection (c), "2 documented good
14 faith efforts" means the health care provider has called the
15 telephone number on the enrollee's health insurance card or
16 other available number either 2 times or one time and an
17 additional call to any referral number provided.

18 (d) After rendering any post-stabilization medical
19 services, the treating physician licensed to practice medicine
20 in all its branches or health care provider shall continue to
21 make every reasonable effort to contact the exclusive provider
22 benefit plan or its delegated health care provider regarding
23 authorization, denial, or arrangements for an alternate plan of
24 treatment or transfer of the enrollee until the treating health
25 care provider receives instructions from the exclusive
26 provider benefit plan or delegated health care provider for

1 continued care or the care is transferred to another health
2 care provider or the patient is discharged.

3 (e) Payment for covered post-stabilization services may be
4 denied:

5 (1) if the treating health care provider does not meet
6 the conditions outlined in subsection (c) of this Section;

7 (2) upon determination that the post-stabilization
8 services claimed were not performed;

9 (3) upon timely determination that the
10 post-stabilization services rendered were contrary to the
11 instructions of the exclusive provider benefit plan or its
12 delegated health care provider if contact was made between
13 those parties prior to the service being rendered;

14 (4) upon determination that the patient receiving such
15 services was not an enrollee of the exclusive provider
16 benefit plan; or

17 (5) upon material misrepresentation by the enrollee or
18 health care provider.

19 For the purposes of this subsection (e), "material" means a
20 fact or situation that is not merely technical in nature and
21 results or could result in a substantial change in the
22 situation.

23 (f) Nothing in this Section prohibits an exclusive provider
24 benefit plan from delegating tasks associated with the
25 responsibilities enumerated in this Section to the exclusive
26 provider benefit plan's contracted health care providers or

1 another entity. Only a clinical peer may make an adverse
2 determination. However, the ultimate responsibility for
3 coverage and payment decisions may not be delegated.

4 (g) Coverage and payment for post-stabilization medical
5 services for which prior authorization or deemed approval is
6 received shall not be retrospectively denied.

7 (h) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the imposition
8 of deductibles, copayments, and co-insurance.

9 Section 75. Quality assessment program.

10 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall develop and
11 implement a quality assessment and improvement strategy
12 designed to identify and evaluate accessibility, continuity,
13 and quality of care. The exclusive provider benefit plan shall
14 have:

15 (1) an ongoing, written, internal quality assessment
16 program;

17 (2) specific written guidelines for monitoring and
18 evaluating the quality and appropriateness of care and
19 services provided to enrollees requiring the exclusive
20 provider benefit plan to assess:

21 (A) the accessibility to health care providers;

22 (B) appropriateness of utilization;

23 (C) concerns identified by the exclusive provider
24 benefit plan's medical or administrative staff and
25 enrollees; and

1 (D) other aspects of care and service directly
2 related to the improvement of quality of care;

3 (3) a procedure for remedial action to correct quality
4 problems that have been verified in accordance with the
5 written plan's methodology and criteria, including written
6 procedures for taking appropriate corrective action; and

7 (4) follow-up measures implemented to evaluate the
8 effectiveness of the action plan.

9 (b) The exclusive provider benefit plan shall establish a
10 committee that oversees the quality assessment and improvement
11 strategy that includes physician and enrollee participation.

12 (c) Reports on quality assessment and improvement
13 activities shall be made to the governing body of the exclusive
14 provider benefit plan not less than quarterly.

15 (d) The exclusive provider benefit plan shall make
16 available its written description of the quality assessment
17 program to the Department of Public Health.

18 (e) With the exception of subsection (d), the Department of
19 Public Health shall accept evidence of accreditation with
20 regard to the health care network quality management and
21 performance improvement standards of:

22 (1) the National Commission on Quality Assurance
23 (NCQA);

24 (2) the American Accreditation Healthcare Commission
25 (URAC);

26 (3) the Joint Commission on Accreditation of

1 Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); or

2 (4) any other entity that the Director of Public Health
3 deems has substantially similar or more stringent
4 standards than provided for in this Section.

5 (f) If the Department of Public Health determines that an
6 exclusive provider benefit plan is not in compliance with the
7 terms of this Section, it shall certify the finding to the
8 Department of Insurance. The Department of Insurance may
9 subject the exclusive provider benefit plan to penalties, as
10 provided in this Act, for such non-compliance.

11 Section 80. Utilization review. If an exclusive provider
12 benefit plan conducts a utilization review program in this
13 State, then the exclusive provider benefit plan shall do so in
14 accordance with Section 85 of the Managed Care Reform and
15 Patient Rights Act.

16 Section 85. Examinations and fees. The Director may examine
17 an insurer to determine the quality and adequacy of a network
18 used by an exclusive provider benefit plan offered by the
19 insurer under this Act. An insurer is subject to a qualifying
20 examination of the insurer's exclusive provider benefit plans
21 and subsequent quality of care examinations by the Director at
22 least once every 5 years. Documentation provided to the
23 Director during an examination conducted under this Section is
24 confidential and is not subject to disclosure as public

1 information under the Freedom of Information Act.

2 Section 900. The Freedom of Information Act is amended by
3 changing Section 7.5 as follows:

4 (5 ILCS 140/7.5)

5 Sec. 7.5. Statutory Exemptions. To the extent provided for
6 by the statutes referenced below, the following shall be exempt
7 from inspection and copying:

8 (a) All information determined to be confidential under
9 Section 4002 of the Technology Advancement and Development Act.

10 (b) Library circulation and order records identifying
11 library users with specific materials under the Library Records
12 Confidentiality Act.

13 (c) Applications, related documents, and medical records
14 received by the Experimental Organ Transplantation Procedures
15 Board and any and all documents or other records prepared by
16 the Experimental Organ Transplantation Procedures Board or its
17 staff relating to applications it has received.

18 (d) Information and records held by the Department of
19 Public Health and its authorized representatives relating to
20 known or suspected cases of sexually transmissible disease or
21 any information the disclosure of which is restricted under the
22 Illinois Sexually Transmissible Disease Control Act.

23 (e) Information the disclosure of which is exempted under
24 Section 30 of the Radon Industry Licensing Act.

1 (f) Firm performance evaluations under Section 55 of the
2 Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Qualifications
3 Based Selection Act.

4 (g) Information the disclosure of which is restricted and
5 exempted under Section 50 of the Illinois Prepaid Tuition Act.

6 (h) Information the disclosure of which is exempted under
7 the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, and records of
8 any lawfully created State or local inspector general's office
9 that would be exempt if created or obtained by an Executive
10 Inspector General's office under that Act.

11 (i) Information contained in a local emergency energy plan
12 submitted to a municipality in accordance with a local
13 emergency energy plan ordinance that is adopted under Section
14 11-21.5-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

15 (j) Information and data concerning the distribution of
16 surcharge moneys collected and remitted by wireless carriers
17 under the Wireless Emergency Telephone Safety Act.

18 (k) Law enforcement officer identification information or
19 driver identification information compiled by a law
20 enforcement agency or the Department of Transportation under
21 Section 11-212 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

22 (l) Records and information provided to a residential
23 health care facility resident sexual assault and death review
24 team or the Executive Council under the Abuse Prevention Review
25 Team Act.

26 (m) Information provided to the predatory lending database

1 created pursuant to Article 3 of the Residential Real Property
2 Disclosure Act, except to the extent authorized under that
3 Article.

4 (n) Defense budgets and petitions for certification of
5 compensation and expenses for court appointed trial counsel as
6 provided under Sections 10 and 15 of the Capital Crimes
7 Litigation Act. This subsection (n) shall apply until the
8 conclusion of the trial of the case, even if the prosecution
9 chooses not to pursue the death penalty prior to trial or
10 sentencing.

11 (o) Information that is prohibited from being disclosed
12 under Section 4 of the Illinois Health and Hazardous Substances
13 Registry Act.

14 (p) Security portions of system safety program plans,
15 investigation reports, surveys, schedules, lists, data, or
16 information compiled, collected, or prepared by or for the
17 Regional Transportation Authority under Section 2.11 of the
18 Regional Transportation Authority Act or the St. Clair County
19 Transit District under the Bi-State Transit Safety Act.

20 (q) Information prohibited from being disclosed by the
21 Personnel Records Review Act.

22 (r) Information prohibited from being disclosed by the
23 Illinois School Student Records Act.

24 (s) Information the disclosure of which is restricted under
25 Section 5-108 of the Public Utilities Act.

26 (t) All identified or deidentified health information in

1 the form of health data or medical records contained in, stored
2 in, submitted to, transferred by, or released from the Illinois
3 Health Information Exchange, and identified or deidentified
4 health information in the form of health data and medical
5 records of the Illinois Health Information Exchange in the
6 possession of the Illinois Health Information Exchange
7 Authority due to its administration of the Illinois Health
8 Information Exchange. The terms "identified" and
9 "deidentified" shall be given the same meaning as in the Health
10 Insurance Accountability and Portability Act of 1996, Public
11 Law 104-191, or any subsequent amendments thereto, and any
12 regulations promulgated thereunder.

13 (u) Records and information provided to an independent team
14 of experts under Brian's Law.

15 (v) Names and information of people who have applied for or
16 received Firearm Owner's Identification Cards under the
17 Firearm Owners Identification Card Act.

18 (w) ~~(v)~~ Personally identifiable information which is
19 exempted from disclosure under subsection (g) of Section 19.1
20 of the Toll Highway Act.

21 (x) All identified or deidentified health information in
22 the form of health data or medical records in possession of the
23 Department of Insurance due to the Department's administration
24 of the Exclusive Provider Benefit Plan Act.

25 (Source: P.A. 96-542, eff. 1-1-10; 96-1235, eff. 1-1-11;
26 96-1331, eff. 7-27-10; 97-80, eff. 7-5-11; 97-333, eff.

1 8-12-11; 97-342, eff. 8-12-11; revised 9-2-11.)

2 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.".