



Sen. William R. Haine

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1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2065

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2065, AS AMENDED, by
3 replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

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

7 Section 5. For the purposes of this Act:

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

12 "Department" means the Department of Insurance.

13 "Director" means the Director of Insurance.

14 "Emergency medical condition" means a medical condition
15 manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity
16 (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson, who

1 possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could
2 reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to
3 result in:

4 (1) placing the health of the individual (or, with
5 respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her
6 unborn child) in serious jeopardy;

7 (2) serious impairment to bodily functions; or

8 (3) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

9 "Emergency services" means, with respect to an enrollee of
10 a health care plan, transportation services, including, but not
11 limited to, ambulance services, and covered inpatient and
12 outpatient hospital services furnished by a provider qualified
13 to furnish those services that are needed to evaluate or
14 stabilize an emergency medical condition. "Emergency services"
15 does not include post-stabilization medical services.

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

18 "Exclusive provider" means a provider or health care
19 provider, or an organization of providers or health care
20 providers, who contracts with an insurer to provide medical
21 care or health care to insureds covered by a health insurance
22 policy.

23 "Exclusive provider benefit plan" means a benefit plan in
24 which an insurer contracts with a provider to provide some
25 services to an insured, not including emergency care services
26 required under Section 65 of the Managed Care Reform and

1 Patients Right Act, provided by a health care provider who is a
2 non-exclusive provider.

3 "Health care provider" means a provider, institutional
4 provider, or other person or organization that furnishes health
5 care services and that is licensed or otherwise authorized to
6 practice in this State.

7 "Health care services" means any services included in the
8 furnishing of medical care to any individual, or the
9 hospitalization incident to the furnishing of such care, as
10 well as the furnishing to any person of any and all other
11 services for the purpose of preventing, alleviating, curing, or
12 healing human illness or injury.

13 "Health insurance policy" means a group or individual
14 insurance policy, certificate, or contract providing benefits
15 for medical or surgical expenses incurred as a result of an
16 accident or sickness.

17 "Hospital" means an institution licensed under the
18 Hospital Licensing Act, an institution that meets all
19 comparable conditions and requirements in effect in the state
20 in which it is located, or the University of Illinois Hospital
21 as defined in the University of Illinois Hospital Act.

22 "Institutional provider" means a hospital, nursing home,
23 or other medical or health-related service facility that
24 provides care for the sick or injured or other care that may be
25 covered in a health insurance policy.

26 "Insurer" means an insurance company or a health service

1 corporation authorized in this State to issue policies or
2 subscriber contracts that reimburse for expense of health care
3 services.

4 "Post-stabilization medical services" means health care
5 services provided to an enrollee that are furnished in a
6 licensed hospital by a provider that is qualified to furnish
7 such services, and determined to be medically necessary and
8 directly related to the emergency medical condition following
9 stabilization.

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

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

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

18 "Stabilization" means, with respect to an emergency
19 medical condition, to provide such medical treatment of the
20 condition as may be necessary to ensure, within reasonable
21 medical probability, that no material deterioration of the
22 condition is likely to result.

23 Section 10. Exclusive provider benefit plans permitted. An
24 exclusive provider benefit plan that meets the requirements of
25 this Act shall be permitted. To the extent of any conflict

1 between this Section and any other statutory provision, this
2 Section prevails over the conflicting provision. The Director
3 of Insurance may adopt rules necessary to implement the
4 Department's responsibilities under this Act.

5 Section 15. Applicability of this Act.

6 (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided by this
7 Section, this Section applies to each individual or group
8 exclusive provider benefit plan in which an insurer provides,
9 through the insurer's health insurance policy, for the payment
10 of coverage only for the use of an exclusive provider network,
11 other than the use of a non-exclusive provider for emergency
12 care services.

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

15 (c) This Act does not apply to:

16 (1) the Children's Health Insurance Program under the
17 Children's Health Insurance Program Act;

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

20 (3) an HMO under Article I of the Health Maintenance
21 Organization Act.

22 (d) An insurer duly licensed under the laws of this State
23 may offer exclusive provider benefit plans to individuals and
24 group health plans in conformity with the terms set forth in
25 this Section. An insurer shall not be required to be licensed

1 as an HMO under the Health Maintenance Organization Act in
2 order to offer exclusive provider benefit plans under this
3 Section.

4 Section 20. Applicability of Health Carrier External
5 Review Act. The Health Carrier External Review Act shall apply
6 to an exclusive provider benefit plan, except to the extent
7 that the Director determines the provision to be inconsistent
8 with the function and purpose of an exclusive provider benefit
9 plan.

10 Section 25. Construction of Act.

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

15 (b) Except as specifically provided for in this Act, this
16 Act may not be construed to require an exclusive provider
17 benefit plan to compensate a non-exclusive provider for
18 services provided to an insured.

19 Section 30. Provision of information.

20 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall provide
21 annually to enrollees and prospective enrollees, upon request,
22 a complete list of exclusive providers in the exclusive
23 provider benefit plan service area and a description of the

1 following terms of coverage:

2 (1) the service area;

3 (2) the covered benefits and services with all
4 exclusions, exceptions, and limitations;

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

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

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

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

12 (7) the enrollee's financial responsibility for
13 copayments, deductibles, premiums, and any other
14 out-of-pocket expenses;

15 (8) the provisions for continuity of treatment in the
16 event an exclusive provider's participation terminates
17 during the course of an enrollee's treatment by that
18 exclusive provider;

19 (9) the appeals process, forms, and time frames for
20 health care services appeals, complaints, and external
21 independent reviews, administrative complaints, and
22 utilization review complaints, if applicable, including a
23 phone number to call to receive more information from the
24 exclusive provider benefits plan concerning the appeals
25 process; and

26 (10) a statement of all basic health care services and

1 all specific benefits and services mandated to be provided
2 to enrollees by any State law or administrative rule.

3 In the event of an inconsistency between any separate
4 written disclosure statement and the enrollee contract or
5 certificate, the terms of the enrollee contract or certificate
6 shall control.

7 (b) Upon written request, an exclusive provider benefit
8 plan shall provide to enrollees a description of the financial
9 relationships between the exclusive provider benefit plan and
10 any health care provider and, if requested, the percentage of
11 copayments, deductibles, and total premiums spent on
12 healthcare related expenses and the percentage of copayments,
13 deductibles, and total premiums spent on other expenses,
14 including administrative expenses, except that no exclusive
15 provider benefit plan shall be required to disclose specific
16 provider reimbursement.

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

19 (1) Information related to the exclusive provider's
20 educational background, experience, training, specialty,
21 and board certification, if applicable.

22 (2) The names of licensed facilities on the provider
23 panel where the exclusive provider presently has
24 privileges for the treatment, illness, or procedure that is
25 the subject of the request.

26 (3) Information regarding the exclusive provider's

1 participation in continuing education programs and
2 compliance with any licensure, certification, or
3 registration requirements, if applicable.

4 (d) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall provide the
5 information required to be disclosed under this Act upon
6 enrollment and annually thereafter in a legible and
7 understandable format. The Department of Insurance shall adopt
8 rules to establish the format based, to the extent practical,
9 on the standards developed for supplemental insurance coverage
10 under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act as a
11 guide, so that a person can compare the attributes of the
12 various health care plans.

13 (e) An identification card or similar document issued by an
14 insurer to an insured in an exclusive provider benefit plan
15 must display:

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

19 (2) the acronym "EPO" or the phrase "Exclusive Provider
20 Organization" on the card in a location of the insurer's
21 choice.

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

24 Section 35. Availability of exclusive providers.

25 (a) An insurer offering an exclusive provider benefit plan

1 shall ensure that the exclusive provider benefits are
2 reasonably available to all insureds within a designated
3 service area.

4 (b) If services are not available through an exclusive
5 provider within a designated service area under an exclusive
6 provider benefit plan, an insurer shall reimburse a physician
7 or health care provider who is a non-exclusive provider at the
8 same percentage level of benefit as an exclusive provider would
9 have been reimbursed had the insured been treated by an
10 exclusive provider.

11 Section 40. Notice of nonrenewal or termination. An
12 exclusive provider benefit plan must give at least 60 days
13 notice of nonrenewal or termination of an exclusive provider to
14 the exclusive provider and to the enrollees served by the
15 exclusive provider. The notice shall include a name and address
16 to which an enrollee or exclusive provider may direct comments
17 and concerns regarding the nonrenewal or termination.
18 Immediate written notice may be provided without 60 days notice
19 when a health care provider's license has been disciplined by a
20 state licensing board.

21 Section 45. Transition of service.

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

24 (1) If an enrollee's physician leaves the exclusive

1 provider benefit plan's network of health care providers
2 for reasons other than termination of a contract in
3 situations involving imminent harm to a patient or a final
4 disciplinary action by a state licensing board and the
5 physician remains within the exclusive provider benefit
6 plan's service area, the exclusive provider benefit plan
7 shall permit the enrollee to continue an ongoing course of
8 treatment with that physician during a transitional
9 period:

10 (A) of 90 days after the date of the notice of the
11 physician's termination from the health care plan to
12 the enrollee of the physician's disaffiliation from
13 the health care plan if the enrollee has an ongoing
14 course of treatment; or

15 (B) that includes the provision of post-partum
16 care directly related to the delivery, if the enrollee
17 has entered the third trimester of pregnancy at the
18 time of the physician's disaffiliation.

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

23 (A) to continue to accept reimbursement from the
24 exclusive provider benefit plan at the rates
25 applicable prior to the start of the transitional
26 period;

1 (B) to adhere to the exclusive provider benefit
2 plan's quality assurance requirements and to provide
3 to the exclusive provider benefit plan necessary
4 medical information related to such care; and

5 (C) to otherwise adhere to the exclusive provider
6 benefit plan's policies and procedures, including, but
7 not limited to, procedures regarding referrals and
8 obtaining preauthorizations for treatment.

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

11 (1) If a new enrollee whose physician is not a member
12 of the exclusive provider benefit plan's provider network,
13 but is within the exclusive provider benefit plan's service
14 area, enrolls in the exclusive provider benefit plan, the
15 exclusive provider benefit plan shall permit the enrollee
16 to continue an ongoing course of treatment with the
17 enrollee's current physician during a transitional period:

18 (A) of 90 days after the effective date of
19 enrollment if the enrollee has an ongoing course of
20 treatment; or

21 (B) that includes the provision of post-partum
22 care directly related to the delivery, if the enrollee
23 has entered the third trimester of pregnancy at the
24 effective date of enrollment.

25 (2) If an enrollee elects to continue to receive care
26 from such physician pursuant to paragraph (1) of this

1 subsection (a), such care shall be authorized by the
2 exclusive provider benefit plan for the transitional
3 period only if the physician agrees:

4 (A) to accept reimbursement from the exclusive
5 provider benefit plan at rates established by the
6 exclusive provider benefit plan; such rates shall be
7 the level of reimbursement applicable to similar
8 physicians within the exclusive provider benefit plan
9 for such services;

10 (B) to adhere to the exclusive provider benefit
11 plan's quality assurance requirements and to provide
12 to the exclusive provider benefit plan necessary
13 medical information related to such care; and

14 (C) to otherwise adhere to the exclusive provider
15 benefit plan's policies and procedures, including, but
16 not limited to, procedures regarding referrals and
17 obtaining preauthorization for treatment.

18 (c) In no event shall this Section be construed to require
19 an exclusive provider benefit plan to provide coverage for
20 benefits not otherwise covered or to diminish or impair
21 preexisting condition limitations contained in the enrollee's
22 contract.

23 Section 50. Prohibitions.

24 (a) No exclusive provider benefit plan or its
25 subcontractors may prohibit or discourage health care

1 providers by contract or policy from discussing any health care
2 services and health care providers, utilization review, if
3 applicable, and quality assurance policies, terms, and
4 conditions of plans, and plan policy with enrollees,
5 prospective enrollees, providers, or the public.

6 (b) No exclusive provider benefit plan by contract, written
7 policy, or procedure may permit or allow an individual or
8 entity to dispense a different drug in place of the drug or
9 brand of drug ordered or prescribed without the express
10 permission of the person ordering or prescribing the drug,
11 except as provided under Section 3.14 of the Illinois Food,
12 Drug and Cosmetic Act.

13 Section 55. Exclusive provider benefit plans; access to
14 specialists.

15 (a) When the type of specialist physician or other health
16 care provider needed to provide care for a specific condition
17 is not represented in the exclusive provider benefit plan's
18 network, the exclusive provider benefit plan shall allow for
19 the enrollee to have access to a non-exclusive provider within
20 a reasonable distance and travel time at no additional cost
21 beyond what the enrollee would otherwise pay for services
22 received within the network if it is determined by a licensed
23 clinical peer that the service or treatment of the specific
24 condition is medically necessary and such services or
25 treatments are not available through the exclusive provider

1 benefit plan network. Coverage for all services performed in
2 accordance with this Section shall be at the same benefit level
3 as if the service or treatment had been rendered by an
4 exclusive provider.

5 (b) If an exclusive provider benefit plan denies an
6 enrollee's request for a specialist physician or other health
7 care provider that is not represented in the exclusive provider
8 benefit plan's network, an enrollee may appeal the decision
9 through the exclusive provider benefit plan's external
10 independent review process as provided by the Health Carrier
11 External Review Act.

12 Section 60. Health care services appeals, complaints, and
13 external independent reviews.

14 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall establish and
15 maintain an appeals procedure as outlined in this Act.
16 Compliance with this Act's appeals procedures shall satisfy an
17 exclusive provider benefit plan's obligation to provide appeal
18 procedures under any other State law or rules.

19 (b) When an appeal concerns a decision or action by an
20 exclusive provider benefit plan, its employees, or its
21 subcontractors that relates to (i) health care services,
22 including, but not limited to, procedures or treatments, for an
23 enrollee with an ongoing course of treatment ordered by a
24 health care provider, the denial of which could significantly
25 increase the risk to an enrollee's health or (ii) a treatment

1 referral, service, procedure, or other health care service, the
2 denial of which could significantly increase the risk to an
3 enrollee's health, the exclusive provider benefit plan must
4 allow for the filing of an appeal either orally or in writing.
5 Upon submission of the appeal, an exclusive provider benefit
6 plan must notify the party filing the appeal as soon as
7 possible, but in no event more than 24 hours after the
8 submission of the appeal, of all information that the exclusive
9 provider benefit plan requires to evaluate the appeal. The
10 exclusive provider benefit plan shall render a decision on the
11 appeal within 24 hours after receipt of the required
12 information. The exclusive provider benefit plan shall notify
13 the party filing the appeal and the enrollee and any health
14 care provider who recommended the health care service involved
15 in the appeal of its decision orally, followed up by a written
16 notice of the determination.

17 (c) For all appeals related to health care services,
18 including, but not limited to, procedures or treatments for an
19 enrollee, not covered by subsection (b) of this Section, the
20 exclusive provider benefit plan shall establish a procedure for
21 the filing of such appeals. Upon submission of an appeal under
22 this subsection (c), an exclusive provider benefit plan must
23 notify the party filing an appeal, within 3 business days after
24 the submission, of all information that the plan requires to
25 evaluate the appeal. The exclusive provider benefit plan shall
26 render a decision on the appeal within 15 business days after

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

6 (d) An appeal under subsections (b) or (c) of this Section
7 may be filed by the enrollee, the enrollee's designee or
8 guardian, or the enrollee's health care provider. An exclusive
9 provider benefit plan shall designate a clinical peer to review
10 appeals, because these appeals pertain to medical or clinical
11 matters and such an appeal must be reviewed by an appropriate
12 health care professional. No one reviewing an appeal may have
13 had any involvement in the initial determination that is the
14 subject of the appeal. The written notice of determination
15 required under subsections (b) and (c) shall include (i) clear
16 and detailed reasons for the determination, (ii) the medical or
17 clinical criteria for the determination, which shall be based
18 upon sound clinical evidence and reviewed on a periodic basis,
19 and (iii) in the case of an adverse determination, the
20 procedures for requesting an external independent review as
21 provided by the Health Carrier External Review Act.

22 (e) If an appeal filed under subsections (b) or (c) is
23 denied for a reason, including, but not limited to, the
24 service, procedure, or treatment is not viewed as medically
25 necessary, denial of specific tests or procedures, denial of
26 referral to specialist physicians or denial of hospitalization

1 requests or length of stay requests, any involved party may
2 request an external independent review as provided by the
3 Health Carrier External Review Act.

4 (f) Future contractual or employment action by the
5 exclusive provider benefit plan regarding the patient's
6 physician or other health care provider shall not be based
7 solely on the physician's or other health care provider's
8 participation in health care services appeals, complaints, or
9 external independent reviews under the Health Carrier External
10 Review Act.

11 (g) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require
12 an exclusive provider benefit plan to pay for a health care
13 service not covered under the enrollee's certificate of
14 coverage or policy.

15 Section 65. Emergency services prior to stabilization.

16 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan that provides or
17 that is required by law to provide coverage for emergency
18 services shall provide coverage such that payment under this
19 coverage is not dependent upon whether the services are
20 performed by a plan or non-plan health care provider and
21 without regard to prior authorization. This coverage shall be
22 at the same benefit level as if the services or treatment had
23 been rendered by the health care plan physician licensed to
24 practice medicine in all its branches or health care provider.

25 (b) Prior authorization or approval by the plan shall not

1 be required for emergency services.

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

4 (1) upon reasonable determination that the emergency
5 services claimed were never performed;

6 (2) upon timely determination that the emergency
7 evaluation and treatment were rendered to an enrollee who
8 sought emergency services and whose circumstance did not
9 meet the definition of emergency medical condition;

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

12 (4) upon material misrepresentation by the enrollee or
13 health care provider.

14 For the purposes of this subsection (c), "material" means a
15 fact or situation that is not merely technical in nature and
16 results or could result in a substantial change in the
17 situation.

18 (d) When an enrollee presents to a hospital seeking
19 emergency services, the determination as to whether the need
20 for those services exists shall be made for purposes of
21 treatment by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all
22 its branches or, to the extent permitted by applicable law, by
23 other appropriately licensed personnel under the supervision
24 of or in collaboration with a physician licensed to practice
25 medicine in all its branches. The physician or other
26 appropriate personnel shall indicate in the patient's chart the

1 results of the emergency medical screening examination.

2 (e) The appropriate use of the 9-1-1 emergency telephone
3 system or its local equivalent shall not be discouraged or
4 penalized by the exclusive provider benefit plan when an
5 emergency medical condition exists. This provision shall not
6 imply that the use of the 9-1-1 emergency telephone system or
7 its local equivalent is a factor in determining the existence
8 of an emergency medical condition.

9 (f) The medical director's or his or her designee's
10 determination of whether the enrollee meets the standard of an
11 emergency medical condition shall be based solely upon the
12 presenting symptoms documented in the medical record at the
13 time care was sought. Only a clinical peer may make an adverse
14 determination.

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

17 Section 70. Post-stabilization medical services.

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

24 (b) The treating physician licensed to practice medicine in
25 all its branches or health care provider shall contact the

1 exclusive provider benefit plan or delegated health care
2 provider as designated on the enrollee's health insurance card
3 to obtain authorization, denial, or arrangements for an
4 alternate plan of treatment or transfer of the enrollee.

5 (c) The treating physician licensed to practice medicine in
6 all its branches or health care provider shall document in the
7 enrollee's medical record the enrollee's presenting symptoms;
8 emergency medical condition; and time, phone number dialed, and
9 result of the communication for request for authorization of
10 post-stabilization medical services. The exclusive provider
11 benefit plan shall provide reimbursement for covered
12 post-stabilization medical services if:

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

16 (2) after 2 documented good faith efforts, the treating
17 health care provider has attempted to contact the
18 enrollee's exclusive provider benefit plan or its
19 delegated health care provider, as designated on the
20 enrollee's health insurance card, for prior authorization
21 of post-stabilization medical services and neither the
22 plan nor designated persons were accessible or the
23 authorization was not denied within 60 minutes of the
24 request.

25 For the purposes of this subsection (c), "2 documented good
26 faith efforts" means the health care provider has called the

1 telephone number on the enrollee's health insurance card or
2 other available number either 2 times or one time and an
3 additional call to any referral number provided.

4 (d) After rendering any post-stabilization medical
5 services, the treating physician licensed to practice medicine
6 in all its branches or health care provider shall continue to
7 make every reasonable effort to contact the exclusive provider
8 benefit plan or its delegated health care provider regarding
9 authorization, denial, or arrangements for an alternate plan of
10 treatment or transfer of the enrollee until the treating health
11 care provider receives instructions from the exclusive
12 provider benefit plan or delegated health care provider for
13 continued care or the care is transferred to another health
14 care provider or the patient is discharged.

15 (e) Payment for covered post-stabilization services may be
16 denied:

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

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

21 (3) upon timely determination that the
22 post-stabilization services rendered were contrary to the
23 instructions of the exclusive provider benefit plan or its
24 delegated health care provider if contact was made between
25 those parties prior to the service being rendered;

26 (4) upon determination that the patient receiving such

1 services was not an enrollee of the exclusive provider
2 benefit plan; or

3 (5) upon material misrepresentation by the enrollee or
4 health care provider.

5 For the purposes of this subsection (e), "material" means a
6 fact or situation that is not merely technical in nature and
7 results or could result in a substantial change in the
8 situation.

9 (f) Nothing in this Section prohibits an exclusive provider
10 benefit plan from delegating tasks associated with the
11 responsibilities enumerated in this Section to the exclusive
12 provider benefit plan's contracted health care providers or
13 another entity. Only a clinical peer may make an adverse
14 determination. However, the ultimate responsibility for
15 coverage and payment decisions may not be delegated.

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

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

21 Section 75. Quality assessment program.

22 (a) An exclusive provider benefit plan shall develop and
23 implement a quality assessment and improvement strategy
24 designed to identify and evaluate accessibility, continuity,
25 and quality of care. The exclusive provider benefit plan shall

1 have:

2 (1) an ongoing, written, internal quality assessment
3 program;

4 (2) specific written guidelines for monitoring and
5 evaluating the quality and appropriateness of care and
6 services provided to enrollees requiring the exclusive
7 provider benefit plan to assess:

8 (A) the accessibility to health care providers;

9 (B) appropriateness of utilization;

10 (C) concerns identified by the exclusive provider
11 benefit plan's medical or administrative staff and
12 enrollees; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (e) With the exception of subsection (d), the Department of
5 Public Health shall accept evidence of accreditation with
6 regard to the health care network quality management and
7 performance improvement standards of:

8 (1) the National Commission on Quality Assurance
9 (NCQA);

10 (2) the American Accreditation Healthcare Commission
11 (URAC);

12 (3) the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
13 Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); or

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

17 (f) If the Department of Public Health determines that an
18 exclusive provider benefit plan is not in compliance with the
19 terms of this Section, it shall certify the finding to the
20 Department of Insurance. The Department of Insurance may
21 subject the exclusive provider benefit plan to penalties, as
22 provided in this Act, for such non-compliance.

23 Section 80. Utilization review. If an exclusive provider
24 benefit plan conducts a utilization review program in this
25 State, then the exclusive provider benefit plan shall do so in

1 accordance with Section 85 of the Managed Care Reform and
2 Patient Rights Act.

3 Section 85. Examinations and fees. The Director may examine
4 an insurer to determine the quality and adequacy of a network
5 used by an exclusive provider benefit plan offered by the
6 insurer under this Act. An insurer is subject to a qualifying
7 examination of the insurer's exclusive provider benefit plans
8 and subsequent quality of care examinations by the Director at
9 least once every 5 years. Documentation provided to the
10 Director during an examination conducted under this Section is
11 confidential and is not subject to disclosure as public
12 information under the Freedom of Information Act.

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

15 (5 ILCS 140/7.5)

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

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

21 (b) Library circulation and order records identifying
22 library users with specific materials under the Library Records
23 Confidentiality Act.

1 (c) Applications, related documents, and medical records
2 received by the Experimental Organ Transplantation Procedures
3 Board and any and all documents or other records prepared by
4 the Experimental Organ Transplantation Procedures Board or its
5 staff relating to applications it has received.

6 (d) Information and records held by the Department of
7 Public Health and its authorized representatives relating to
8 known or suspected cases of sexually transmissible disease or
9 any information the disclosure of which is restricted under the
10 Illinois Sexually Transmissible Disease Control Act.

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

13 (f) Firm performance evaluations under Section 55 of the
14 Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Qualifications
15 Based Selection Act.

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

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

23 (i) Information contained in a local emergency energy plan
24 submitted to a municipality in accordance with a local
25 emergency energy plan ordinance that is adopted under Section
26 11-21.5-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

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

4 (k) Law enforcement officer identification information or
5 driver identification information compiled by a law
6 enforcement agency or the Department of Transportation under
7 Section 11-212 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

8 (l) Records and information provided to a residential
9 health care facility resident sexual assault and death review
10 team or the Executive Council under the Abuse Prevention Review
11 Team Act.

12 (m) Information provided to the predatory lending database
13 created pursuant to Article 3 of the Residential Real Property
14 Disclosure Act, except to the extent authorized under that
15 Article.

16 (n) Defense budgets and petitions for certification of
17 compensation and expenses for court appointed trial counsel as
18 provided under Sections 10 and 15 of the Capital Crimes
19 Litigation Act. This subsection (n) shall apply until the
20 conclusion of the trial of the case, even if the prosecution
21 chooses not to pursue the death penalty prior to trial or
22 sentencing.

23 (o) Information that is prohibited from being disclosed
24 under Section 4 of the Illinois Health and Hazardous Substances
25 Registry Act.

26 (p) Security portions of system safety program plans,

1 investigation reports, surveys, schedules, lists, data, or
2 information compiled, collected, or prepared by or for the
3 Regional Transportation Authority under Section 2.11 of the
4 Regional Transportation Authority Act or the St. Clair County
5 Transit District under the Bi-State Transit Safety Act.

6 (q) Information prohibited from being disclosed by the
7 Personnel Records Review Act.

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

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

12 (t) All identified or deidentified health information in
13 the form of health data or medical records contained in, stored
14 in, submitted to, transferred by, or released from the Illinois
15 Health Information Exchange, and identified or deidentified
16 health information in the form of health data and medical
17 records of the Illinois Health Information Exchange in the
18 possession of the Illinois Health Information Exchange
19 Authority due to its administration of the Illinois Health
20 Information Exchange. The terms "identified" and
21 "deidentified" shall be given the same meaning as in the Health
22 Insurance Accountability and Portability Act of 1996, Public
23 Law 104-191, or any subsequent amendments thereto, and any
24 regulations promulgated thereunder.

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

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

4 (w) Personally identifiable information which is exempted
5 from disclosure under subsection (g) of Section 19.1 of the
6 Toll Highway Act.

7 (x) Information which is exempted from disclosure under
8 Section 5-1014.3 of the Counties Code or Section 8-11-21 of the
9 Illinois Municipal Code.

10 (y) All identified or deidentified health information in
11 the form of health data or medical records in possession of the
12 Department of Insurance due to the Department's administration
13 of the Exclusive Provider Benefit Plan Act.

14 (Source: P.A. 96-542, eff. 1-1-10; 96-1235, eff. 1-1-11;
15 96-1331, eff. 7-27-10; 97-80, eff. 7-5-11; 97-333, eff.
16 8-12-11; 97-342, eff. 8-12-11; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12; 97-976,
17 eff. 1-1-13.)

18 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law."