

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE BILL 518

Short Title: State Health Ins. Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Barnes.

Referred to: Public Employees.

April 1, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND BENEFITS OF THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' COMPREHENSIVE MAJOR MEDICAL PLAN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 135-40.6(5) reads as rewritten:

"(5) Surgical Benefits. – The Plan pays the usual, customary and reasonable charges for covered surgical services as follows:

- a. Surgery: Cutting procedures, treatment of fractures, transfusions, operative preparation for diagnostic x-ray examinations, surgical implantation radiation sources, major endoscopic examinations, biopsies, surgical sterilization, other standard services and operations.

For the purpose of this subdivision, the term 'standard services and operations' includes the following organ transplants: liver, heart, corneal, bone marrow, lung, heart-lung, pancreas, and kidney. All other organ transplants shall be considered nonreimbursable under the Plan. Benefits for the above listed organ transplants shall be payable only in accordance with rules established by the Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees. The Executive Administrator and Board of Trustees may limit the Plan's reimbursement for selected organ transplants to amounts that would otherwise be allowed in accordance with G.S. 135-40.4.

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- 1 b. Anesthesia: Administration of general, spinal block or local
2 anesthesia. Covered services include pre- and postoperative
3 visits, the administration of the anesthetic, fluids and/or blood
4 provided by the anesthesiologist and incidental to the
5 anesthesia, and necessary drugs and materials provided by the
6 anesthesiologist. No benefits are provided for administration of
7 local anesthesia or for anesthesia administered by the operating
8 surgeon or surgical assistant(s).
- 9 c. Oral Surgery: Services which are within the scope of practice of
10 both a doctor of medicine and a dentist, such as excision of
11 tumors and lesions of the mouth, treatment of jaw fractures and
12 surgery to correct injuries of the mouth structure other than
13 teeth and their supporting structure. Developmental and
14 congenital orthognathic surgery procedures will be covered
15 under the Plan, provided such surgery is medically necessary, is
16 the only method of treatment which will correct the patient's
17 deformity, is not performed for cosmetic reasons, and is
18 approved in advance by the Claims Processor on the basis of the
19 surgeon's documentation that the correction of the deformity is
20 medically necessary for the maintenance of good physical
21 health.
- 22 d. Maternity Care: Independent operative procedures in
23 connection with pregnancy, such as: manipulative obstetrical
24 delivery, delivery by Caesarean section, removal of ectopic
25 pregnancy, dilation and curettage. Benefits for manipulative
26 obstetrical delivery include use of forceps and/or episiotomy.
27 No benefits are provided for antepartum or postpartum care,
28 except for direct surgical procedures of delivery and surgical
29 treatment.
- 30 e. Surgical Assistants: Services of an assistant surgeon when
31 medical judgment requires the services of an assistant surgeon
32 and no hospital-employed doctor in training is available.
- 33 f. Multiple Procedures: When multiple or bilateral surgical
34 procedures are performed by the same doctor through separate
35 incisions or approaches during the same session, the surgical
36 benefits will be the greater UCR allowance, plus fifty percent
37 (50%) of the lesser UCR allowance. Anesthesia benefits will be
38 the greater UCR allowance.

39 When multiple surgical procedures are performed by the
40 same doctor through the same incision or operative approach,
41 the surgical benefits are limited to the procedure which has the
42 highest UCR allowance.

43 When a surgical procedure is performed in two or more
44 stages, the surgical benefit for the entire procedure is the same

1 as it would be were the procedure performed in one stage
2 (except where otherwise provided in the benefit schedule). This
3 limitation does not apply to anesthesia benefits.
4 g. Cleft Palate: Notwithstanding G.S. 135-40.6(6)a and G.S. 135-
5 40.7(11), medical treatment and care needed by an individual
6 born with cleft palate, including specialized dental and
7 orthodontic care necessitated by the congenital condition."
8 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.