

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1125

S. P. 341

In Senate, March 24, 1977

Referred to Committee on Business Legislation. Sent down for concurrence and 2,000 ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Pierce of Kennebec.

Cosponsors: Senators Merrill of Cumberland, Snowe of Androscoggin, Conley of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Provide Home Health Care Coverage in all Health Care Policies and Contracts.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 24 MRSA § 2320 is enacted to read:

§ 2320. Home health care coverage

All individual and group nonprofit hospital and medical service organization contracts issued for delivery in this State, which provide coverage on an expense incurred basis for inpatient hospital care, shall provide such coverage for home health care services.

Home health care services means those health care services prescribed by a physician which are rendered to a person in his place of residence on a part-time basis by a home health care provider, without requirement that hospitalization be an antecedent to admission to care. Home health services shall include any of the following: Nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, medical social work, nutrition services, speech therapy, home health aide services and medical appliances and equipment.

Home health care provider means a home health care agency which is certified under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965, as amended.

The contract providing coverage for home health care services may contain reasonable limitation on the number of home care visits and other services provided, but the number of such visits shall not be less than 200 in any continuous period of 12 months for each person covered under the policy. Each visit by a member of a home health care team shall be considered as one home care visit.

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA § 2745 is enacted to read :

§ 2745. Home health care coverage

Every insurer which issues or issues for delivery in this State, individual health insurance policies which provide coverage on an expense incurred basis for inpatient hospital care, shall provide such coverage for home health care services.

Home health care services means those health care services prescribed by a physician which are rendered to a person in his place of residence on a part-time basis by a home health care provider, without requirement that hospitalization be an antecedent to admission to care. Home health services shall include any of the following: Nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, medical social work, nutrition services, speech therapy, home health aide services and medical appliances and equipment.

Home health provider means a home health care agency which is certified under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965, as amended.

The contract providing coverage for home health care services may contain reasonable limitation on the number of home care visits and other services provided, but the number of such visits shall not be less than 200 in any continuous period of 12 months for each person covered under the policy. Each visit by a member of a home health care team shall be considered as one home care visit.

Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA § 2837 is enacted to read :

§ 2837. Home health care coverage

Every insurer which issues or issues for delivery in this State, group or blanket health insurance policies or plans which provide coverage on an expense incurred basis for inpatient hospital care, shall provide such coverage for home health care services.

Home health care services means those health care services prescribed by a physician which are rendered to a person in his place of residence on a part-time basis by a home health care provider, without requirement that hospitalization be an antecedent to admission to care. Home health services shall include any of the following: Nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, medical social work, nutrition services, speech therapy, home health aide services and medical appliances and equipment.

Home health care provider means a home health care agency which is certified under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965, as amended.

The contract providing coverage for home health care services may contain reasonable limitation on the number of home care visits and other services provided, but the number of such visits shall not be less than 200 in any continuous period of 12 months for each person covered under the policy. Each visit by a member of a home health care team shall be considered as one home care visit.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Home health care includes the provision of skilled nursing and other therapeutic services on a part-time basis in the home. This form of health care has proven to be an effective and efficient means of delivering health services to Maine people.

This bill would require coverage for home health care services to be included in all health care policies and contracts that provide coverage for inpatient hospital care.