

ACT 273

S.B. NO. 656

A Bill for an Act Relating to Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Insurance Benefits.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 431M-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By adding three new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read: ““Clinical social worker” means a person licensed in the practice of social work pursuant to chapter 467E and certified in clinical social work by a recognized national organization.

“Physician” means a person licensed in the practice of medicine or osteopathy pursuant to chapter 453 or 460, respectively.

“Psychologist” means a person licensed in the practice of psychology pursuant to chapter 465.”

2. By amending the definition of “alcohol or drug dependence outpatient services” to read:

““Alcohol or drug dependence outpatient services” means alcohol or drug dependence nonresidential treatment provided on an ambulatory basis to patients with alcohol or drug dependence problems that includes [psychiatric or psychological] interventions prescribed and performed by [state licensed] physicians [or],

psychologists, or clinical social workers who have been certified pursuant to chapter 321.”

3. By amending the definition of “day treatment services” to read:

““Day treatment services” means treatment services provided by a hospital, mental health outpatient facility, or nonhospital facility to patients who, because of their conditions, require more than periodic hourly service. Day treatment services shall be prescribed by a physician [or licensed], psychologist, or clinical social worker and carried out under the supervision of a physician [or licensed], psychologist[.], or clinical social worker. Day treatment services require less than twenty-four hours of care and a minimum of three hours in any one day.”

4. By amending the definition of “detoxification services” to read:

““Detoxification services” means the process whereby a person intoxicated by alcohol [or], drugs, or both, or a person who is dependent upon alcohol [or], drugs, or both, is assisted through the period of time necessary to eliminate, by metabolic or other means, the intoxicating alcohol or drug dependency factors, as determined by a [licensed] physician, while keeping the physiological risk to the person at a minimum.”

5. By amending the definition of “mental health outpatient services” to read:

““Mental health outpatient services” means mental health nonresidential treatment provided on an ambulatory basis to patients with mental illness that includes [psychiatric or psychological] interventions prescribed and performed by [the] a physician [or licensed], psychologist[.], or clinical social worker.”

6. By amending the definition of “partial hospitalization services” to read:

““Partial hospitalization services” means treatment services, including in-hospital treatment services or benefits, provided by a hospital or mental health outpatient facility to patients who, because of their conditions, require more than periodic hourly service. Partial hospitalization services shall be prescribed by a physician [or licensed], psychologist[.], and may be prescribed by a clinical social worker in consultation with a physician or psychologist. Partial hospitalization services require less than twenty-four hours of care and a minimum of three hours in any one day.”

7. By amending the definition of “treatment episode” to read:

““Treatment episode” means one admission to an accredited hospital or nonhospital facility, or office of a [state-licensed] physician [or], psychologist, or clinical social worker certified pursuant to chapter 321 for treatment of alcohol or drug dependence, or both, as stipulated in a prescribed treatment plan and which would generally produce remission in those who complete the treatment. The prescribed treatment plan may include the provision of substance abuse services in more than one location and may include in-hospital, nonhospital residential, day treatment, or alcohol or drug dependence outpatient services, or any combination thereof. An admission for only detoxification services shall not constitute a treatment episode.”

SECTION 2. Section 431M-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) Covered benefits for alcohol dependence, drug dependence, or mental illness insurance policies, hospital or medical service plan contracts, and health maintenance organization health plan contracts shall be limited to those services certified by the insurance or health care plan carrier’s [licensed] physician [or licensed], psychologist, or clinical social worker as medically or psychologically necessary at the least [costly] restrictive appropriate level of care.”

SECTION 3. Section 431M-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§431M-4 Mental illness, alcohol and drug dependence benefits. (a) The covered benefit under this chapter shall not be less than thirty days of in-hospital services per year. Each day of in-hospital services may be exchanged for two days of nonhospital residential services, two days of partial hospitalization services, or two days of day treatment services. [Physician or psychologist visits] Visits to a physician, psychologist, or clinical social worker shall not be less than thirty visits per year to hospital or nonhospital facilities or to mental health outpatient facilities for day treatment or partial hospitalization services. Each day of in-hospital services may also be exchanged for two outpatient visits under this chapter; provided that the patient’s condition is such that hospitalization would become imminent if outpatient services were interrupted and the outpatient services would reasonably preclude hospitalization. The covered benefit for outpatient services under this chapter shall not be less than twelve visits per year. The covered benefit under this chapter shall apply to any of the services in subsection (b) or (c). In the case of alcohol and drug dependence benefits, the insurance policy may limit the number of treatment episodes but may not limit the number to less than two treatment episodes per lifetime.

(b) Alcohol and drug dependence benefits shall be as follows:

(1) Detoxification services as a covered benefit under this chapter shall be provided either in a hospital or in a nonhospital facility which has a written affiliation agreement with a hospital for emergency, medical, and mental health support services. The following services shall be covered under detoxification services:

- (A) Room and board;
- (B) Diagnostic x-rays;
- (C) Laboratory testing; and
- (D) Drugs, equipment use, special therapies, and supplies.

Detoxification services shall be included as part of the covered in-hospital services, but shall not be included in the treatment episode limitation, as specified in subsection (a);

- (2) Alcohol or drug dependence treatment through in-hospital, nonhospital residential, or day treatment substance abuse services as a covered benefit under this chapter shall be provided in a hospital or nonhospital facility. Before a person qualifies to receive benefits under this subsection, a [licensed] physician [or], psychologist, or clinical social worker certified pursuant to chapter 321 shall determine that the person suffers from alcohol or drug dependence, or both. The substance abuse services covered under this paragraph shall include those services which are required for licensure and accreditation, and shall be included as part of the covered in-hospital services as specified in subsection (a). Excluded from alcohol or drug dependence treatment under this subsection are detoxification services and educational programs to which drinking or drugged drivers are referred by the judicial system, and services performed by mutual self-help groups; and
- (3) Alcohol or drug dependence outpatient services as a covered benefit under this chapter shall be provided under an individualized treatment plan approved by a [licensed] physician [or], psychologist, or clinical social worker certified pursuant to chapter 321 and must be reasonably expected to produce remission of the patient’s condition. An individualized treatment plan approved by a clinical social worker for a patient already under the care or treatment of a physician or psychologist shall be done in consultation with the physician or psychologist. Services

covered under this paragraph shall be included as part of the covered outpatient services as specified in subsection (a).

(c) Mental illness benefits.

- (1) Covered benefits for mental health services set forth in this subsection shall be limited to coverage for diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. All mental health services shall be provided under an individualized treatment plan approved by a [licensed] physician [or], psychologist, or clinical social worker and must be reasonably expected to improve the patient's condition. An individualized treatment plan approved by a clinical social worker for a patient already under the care or treatment of a physician or psychologist shall be done in consultation with the physician or psychologist;
- (2) In-hospital and nonhospital residential mental health services as a covered benefit under this chapter shall be provided in a hospital or a nonhospital residential facility. The services to be covered shall include those services required for licensure and accreditation, and shall be included as part of the covered in-hospital services as specified in subsection (a)[.];
- (3) Mental health partial hospitalization as a covered benefit under this chapter shall be provided by a hospital or a mental health outpatient facility. The services to be covered under this paragraph shall include those services required for licensure and accreditation and shall be included as part of the covered in-hospital services as specified in subsection (a)[.]; and
- (4) Mental health outpatient services shall be a covered benefit under this chapter and shall be included as part of the covered outpatient services as specified in subsection (a).''

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 21, 1997.)