

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1997 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY BERNSTINE, DeLISSIO, BAKER, DRISCOLL, LONGIETTI, STURLA, PHILLIPS-HILL, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, D. COSTA, CHARLTON, HILL-EVANS, SCHWEYER, MURT, WATSON, DeLUCA AND MOUL, JANUARY 5, 2018

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 16, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in medical assistance,
4 providing for medical assistance deemed eligibility program
5 for in-patient behavioral health services.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
9 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
10 read:

11 Section 449.1. Medical Assistance Deemed Eligibility Program
12 for In-Patient Behavioral Health Services.--(a) The department
13 shall establish a deemed eligibility program for in-patient
14 behavioral health services for the purposes specified under
15 subsection (b).

16 (b) The department shall implement the program for the
17 following purposes:

18 (1) Preventing harm to an individual with an immediate need

1 for in-patient behavioral health services as a result of a
2 health crisis or emergency based upon prior hospitalizations for
3 a chronic behavioral health condition.

4 (2) Providing an individual with an immediate need for in-
5 patient behavioral health services with access to an emergency
6 room, a freestanding private psychiatric hospital, a law
7 enforcement facility or a health crisis center if necessary to
8 protect the individual's physical or mental health.

9 (3) Providing medical assistance eligibility for in-patient
10 behavioral health services during the period of hospitalization
11 and after discharge from hospitalization.

12 (4) Authorizing a qualified entity to submit an application
13 to the department on behalf of an individual to determine the
14 individual's eligibility to receive medical assistance for in-
15 patient behavioral health services.

16 (5) Permitting an individual who is applying for medical
17 assistance or a qualified entity on behalf of the individual
18 under paragraph (4) to declare income and assets on an
19 application form and attest to the accuracy of the income and
20 assets provided on the application form.

21 (6) Authorizing a qualified entity to determine if an
22 individual is deemed eligible to receive medical assistance for
23 in-patient behavioral health services.

24 (c) The following apply:

25 (1) If a qualified entity determines that an individual
26 is deemed eligible to receive medical assistance under
27 subsection (b)(6), the individual may begin receiving in-patient
28 behavioral health services from the qualified entity.

29 (2) Except as provided under paragraph (3), if a qualified
30 entity determines that an individual is deemed eligible to

1 receive medical assistance under subsection (b) (6) and the
2 individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible for
3 medical assistance by the department under subsection (d), the
4 qualified entity shall not be reimbursed by the Commonwealth for
5 the cost of in-patient behavioral health services provided
6 during the period of presumed eligibility.

7 (3) If an individual provided fraudulent information to a
8 qualified entity making a determination under subsection (b) (6),
9 the qualified entity may seek reimbursement from the individual
10 for the cost of in-patient behavioral health services provided
11 during the period of presumed eligibility.

12 (4) Upon request, the department shall provide information
13 to a qualified entity about Commonwealth policies and procedures
14 on how to determine whether an individual is deemed eligible for
15 medical assistance under subsection (b) (6).

16 (d) The following apply:

17 (1) Within sixty days of the submission of an application
18 under subsection (b) (4), the department shall verify the
19 information on the application and make a final determination of
20 medical assistance eligibility. The department may request
21 additional information from an applicant for the purpose of
22 completing the verification process under this paragraph.

23 (2) If the department determines that an individual is
24 eligible under paragraph (1), the department shall authorize
25 medical assistance payments for in-patient behavioral health
26 services during the period of presumed eligibility beginning on
27 the date when the qualified entity INDIVIDUAL was deemed
28 eligible under subsection (b) (6). <--

29 (e) The department shall issue a medical assistance bulletin
30 which contains the Commonwealth policies and procedures

1 necessary to implement this section.

2 (f) The department shall apply for any necessary Federal
3 waivers and maximize the use of Federal money for the purpose of
4 implementing the program.

5 (g) The department shall issue any revisions to the State
6 medical assistance plan as required under Title XIX of the
7 Social Security Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)
8 before implementing the program.

9 (h) On or before July 1 of each year, the department shall
10 issue a report to the General Assembly with the following
11 information:

12 (1) The number of individuals participating in the program.

13 (2) The average cost per individual in the program.

14 (3) The number of qualified entities in the program.

15 (4) The administrative cost of the program.

16 (5) The estimated savings from the program.

17 (i) The following words and phrases when used in this
18 section shall have the meaning given to them in this subsection:

19 "Freestanding private psychiatric hospital" means a hospital
20 licensed by the department and enrolled in the medical
21 assistance program as a provider type 01-011.

22 "In-patient behavioral health services" means medically
23 necessary treatment and related services provided in a
24 psychiatric unit of an acute care hospital or a freestanding
25 private psychiatric hospital and covered under the medical
26 assistance program.

27 "Program" means the deemed eligibility program for in-patient
28 behavioral health services established by the department under
29 subsection (a).

30 "Psychiatric unit of a licensed acute care hospital" means a

1 hospital licensed by the department or the Department of Health
2 and enrolled in the medical assistance program as a provider
3 type 01-022.

4 "Qualified entity" means a psychiatric unit of a licensed
5 acute care hospital or a freestanding private psychiatric
6 hospital authorized by the department to participate in the
7 program.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.