



HOUSE BILL 524: Oral Chemo Treatment Access During Pandemic.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 11, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. Cunningham, Adcock, Sasser	Prepared by:	Jessica Boney
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 524 would require insurers to cover orally-administered chemotherapy drugs on the same terms as intravenous or injected chemotherapy drugs until 60 days after Executive Order 116 is rescinded.*

CURRENT LAW:

Under current law, insurers are not required to provide coverage for oral chemotherapy drugs on the same terms as coverage for intravenous chemotherapy drugs.

BILL ANALYSIS:

The bill would require insurers who offer coverage for oral chemotherapy and intravenous or injected chemotherapy drugs to provide coverage for oral chemotherapy drugs on terms no less favorable than those for intravenous or injected chemotherapy drugs. Insurers would be prohibited from subjecting oral chemotherapy drugs to any pre-authorization, coverage limit, co-payment, coinsurance, or deductible that did not apply to intravenous or injected chemotherapy drugs.

The bill would also prohibit insurers from complying with the new rules by reclassifying anticancer drugs or increasing a patient's cost-sharing on any anticancer drugs. Any policy change that would result in an increase in a patient's out-of-pocket expense for anticancer drugs would also have to be applied to the majority of the other pharmaceutical or medical benefits provided by the policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it became law and would expire 60 days after the date Executive Order No. 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19, expires or is rescinded.

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