

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

SENATE BILL 677

By: Monson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to insurance; requiring coverage for comprehensive tobacco cessation programs; construing law; stating parameters of coverage; defining term; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6060.15 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Any health benefit plan, including the State and Education Employees Group Health Insurance Plan, that is offered, issued or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2004, and that provides medical and surgical benefits shall provide coverage for comprehensive tobacco cessation programs, in accordance with standard, accepted, published medical practice guidelines.

B. The benefit required to be provided by subsection A of this section shall in no way diminish or limit diagnostic benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan.

C. The coverage required in this section shall include coverage for cessation strategies including, but not limited to, advice by medical providers, behavioral counseling, and pharmaceutical aids, including coverage for proven treatments such as use of nicotine patches and prescription cessation drugs.

D. As used in this section, "health benefit plan" means group hospital or medical insurance coverage, a not-for-profit hospital or

medical service or indemnity plan, a prepaid health plan, a health maintenance organization plan, a preferred provided organization plan, the State and Education Employees Group Health Insurance Plan, and coverage provided by a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA) or employee self-insured plan, except as exempt under federal ERISA provisions. The term shall not include short-term, accident, fixed indemnity, or specified disease policies, disability income contracts, limited benefit or credit disability insurance, workers' compensation insurance coverage, automobile medical payment insurance, or insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and which is required by law to be contained in any liability insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2003.

49-1-1022

CJ

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