

2021 -- H 5463

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LC001119
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EPINEPHRINE
INJECTORS

Introduced By: Representatives McGaw, Vella-Wilkinson, Baginski, Fellela, Alzate,
Shekarchi, Kislak, Ackerman, Ajello, and Cassar

Date Introduced: February 10, 2021

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18 of the General Laws entitled "Accident and Sickness Insurance
2 Policies" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **27-18-85. Epinephrine injectors.**

4 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
5 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is
6 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.
7 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
8 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

9 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
10 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
11 on or after January 1, 2022, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
12 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
13 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 27-19 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Hospital Service
15 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

16 **27-19-77. Epinephrine injectors.**

17 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
18 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is

1 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.
2 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
3 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

4 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
5 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
6 on or after January 1, 2022, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
7 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
8 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

9 SECTION 3. Chapter 27-20 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Medical Service
10 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

11 **27-20-73. Epinephrine injectors.**

12 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
13 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is
14 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.
15 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
16 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

17 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
18 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
19 on or after January 1, 2022, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
20 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
21 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

22 SECTION 4. Chapter 27-41 of the General Laws entitled "Health Maintenance
23 Organizations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

24 **27-41-90. Epinephrine injectors.**

25 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
26 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is
27 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.
28 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
29 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

30 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
31 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
32 on or after January 1, 2022, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
33 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
34 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EPINEPHRINE
INJECTORS

1 This act would require group health plans and health insurance issuers that provide
2 prescription benefits to cover prescribed epinephrine injectors and cartridges. No copayment or
3 deductible would be required to obtain a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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