S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

3905

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 3, 2009

Introduced by Sen. DUANE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the insurance law, in relation to certain application and referral forms for health care plans

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 4406-d of the public health law, as amended by chapter 551 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

1. (A) A health care plan shall, upon request, make available and disclose to health care professionals written application procedures and minimum qualification requirements which a health care professional must meet in order to be considered by the health care plan. The plan shall consult with appropriately qualified health care professionals in developing its qualification requirements. A health care plan shall complete review of the health care professional's [application to participate] UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION in the in-network portion of the health care plan's network and shall, within ninety days of receiving a health care professional's completed UNIVERSAL application to participate in the health care plan's network, notify the health care professional as to [(a)] (I) whether he or she is credentialed or [(b)] (II) whether additional time is necessary to make a determination in spite of the health care plan's best efforts or because of a failure of a third party to provide necessary documentation, or non-routine or unusual circumstances require additional time for review. In such instances where additional time is necessary because of a lack of necessary documentation, a health plan shall make every effort to obtain such information as soon as possible.

(B) THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTH CARE PLANS, HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SHALL ADOPT BY REGULATION SUCH UNIVERSAL

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD01107-01-9

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION FORM, AND A FORM FOR THE RENEWAL OF CREDENTIALING WHICH SHALL BE AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FORM, FOR USE BY HEALTH CARE PLANS WHICH OFFER MANAGED CARE PRODUCTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO SEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN A HEALTH CARE PLAN'S PROVIDER NETWORK AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE EMPLOYED OR HAVE STAFF PRIVILEGES AT HOSPITALS OR OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES WHICH SEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROVIDER NETWORK.

(C) THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTH CARE PLANS, HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SHALL ADOPT BY REGULATION A UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORM FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIMPLIFYING THE PROCESS OF REFERRAL OF PATIENTS TO OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(D) THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTH CARE PLANS, HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SHALL REVISE THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION, RE-CREDENTIALING AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORMS AS NECESSARY, TO CONFORM WITH INDUSTRY-WIDE, NATIONAL STANDARDS OF CREDENTIALING, RE-CREDENTIALING AND HEALTH CARE REFERRAL.

(E) IN DEVELOPING THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION RE-CREDENTIALING FORMS, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ENSURE THAT THE CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MEDICAID PROGRAM, THE STATE CHILD HEALTH PLUS PROGRAM AND THE FAMILY HEALTH PLUS PROGRAMS ARE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED ON THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION AND RE-CREDENTIALING FORMS.

(F) ALL THE CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING FORMS REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE THE ONLY FORMS THAT MAY BE USED FOR CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS BY HEALTH CARE PLANS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

(G) THE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORM REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE THE ONLY FORM THAT A HEALTH CARE PLAN MAY REQUIRE A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL TO USE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAKING A PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT A HEALTH CARE PLAN MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL PATIENT INFORMATION SEPARATELY FROM THE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORM FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVIEWING SUCH PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL.

S 2. Subsection (a) of section 4803 of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 551 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(a) (1) An insurer which offers a managed care product shall, upon request, make available and disclose to health care professionals written application procedures and minimum qualification requirements which a health care professional must meet in order to be considered by the insurer for participation in the in-network benefits portion of the insurer's network for the managed care product. The insurer shall consult with appropriately qualified health care professionals in developing its qualification requirements for participation in the in-network benefits portion of the insurer's network for the managed care product. An insurer shall complete review of the health care professional's application to participate in the in-network portion of the insurer's network and, within ninety days of receiving a health care professional's completed application to participate in the insurer's network, will notify the health care professional as to (i) whether he or she is credentialed or (ii) whether additional time is necessary to make a determination in spite of insurer's best efforts or because of a failure of a third party to provide necessary documentation, or non-routine or unusual circumstances require additional time for review. In such

instances where additional time is necessary because of a lack of necessary documentation, an insurer shall make every effort to obtain such information as soon as possible. THE PLANS SHALL ALSO IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES TO PERMIT NEWLY LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO RENDER CARE AND RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR CARE PROVIDED TO ENROLLEES ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS DURING THE PENDANCY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS OF SUCH NEWLY LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(2) THE SUPERINTENDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTH CARE PLANS, HOSPITALS, AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SHALL ADOPT BY REGULATION A UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION FORM, AND A FORM FOR THE RENEWAL OF CREDENTIALING WHICH SHALL BE AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FORM FOR USE BY HEALTH CARE PLANS WHICH OFFER MANAGED CARE PRODUCTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO SEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN A HEALTH CARE PLAN'S PROVIDER NETWORK AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE EMPLOYED OR HAVE STAFF PRIVILEGES AT HOSPITALS OR OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES WHICH SEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROVIDER NETWORK.

(3) THE SUPERINTENDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTH CARE PLANS, HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SHALL ADOPT BY REGULATION A UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORM FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIMPLIFYING THE PROCESS OF REFERRAL OF PATIENTS TO OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(4) THE SUPERINTENDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF HEALTH CARE PLANS, HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SHALL REVISE THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION, RE-CREDENTIALING AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORMS AS NECESSARY, TO CONFORM WITH INDUSTRY-WIDE, NATIONAL STANDARDS OF CREDENTIALING, RE-CREDENTIALING AND HEALTH CARE REFERRAL.

(5) IN DEVELOPING THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION RE-CREDENTIALING FORMS, THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ENSURE THAT THE CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MEDICAID PROGRAM, THE STATE CHILD HEALTH PLUS PROGRAM AND THE FAMILY HEALTH PLUS PROGRAMS ARE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED ON THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATION AND RE-CREDENTIALING FORMS.

(6) THE CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING FORMS REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE THE ONLY FORMS THAT MAY BE USED FOR CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS BY INSURERS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

(7) THE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORM REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE THE ONLY FORM THAT AN INSURER MAY REQUIRE A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL TO USE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAKING A PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT AN INSURER MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL PATIENT INFORMATION SEPARATELY FROM THE PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL FORM FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVIEWING SUCH PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.