STATE OF NEW YORK

6586

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WEPRIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law and the social services law, in relation to requiring health insurance policies and Medicaid to cover patient navigation services

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subsection (i) of section 3216 of insurance law is amended by adding a new paragraph 40 to read as follows:

(40) (A) Every policy which provides medical, major medical, or similar comprehensive-type coverage shall provide coverage for patient navigation services to improve access to care for individuals who are eligible for screening, follow-up or treatment services. Eligibility for patient navigation services coverage includes individuals with a serious condition that is expected to last at least three months and places the individual at high risk for one or more of the following:

(i) Hospitalization;

(ii) Nursing home placement;

(iii) A sudden worsening of preexisting symptoms;

(iv) Physical or mental decline; or

(v) Death.

(B) Patient navigation services shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) Screening for nonclinical and social needs that do not require a licensed healthcare provider to complete;

(ii) Referrals and follow-up to connect individuals to services including, but not limited to transportation, employment, job training, food insecurity, childcare, housing, language or health literacy support;

(iii) Help with enrollment or maintaining enrollment in government programs or other assistance programs;

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

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(iv) Arranging for and accompaniment to in-person and virtual healthcare visits; or

(v) Other prevention, screening and treatment health education, health navigation, health advocacy, or individual supports including transition of care supports.

(C) Reimbursement shall be provided to individuals who are trained and have completed a national patient navigation certification or credentialing program, or other certification or training program approved by the department of health. Approved individuals shall be employed by or in consultation with facilities certified under article twenty-eight of the public health law, diagnostic and treatment centers, federally qualified health centers, clinics, physicians or other licensed healthcare providers, to provide patient navigation services. Individuals authorized to provide patient navigation services shall do so under the general supervision of a licensed physician or other licensed healthcare provider.

§ 2. Subsection (l) of section 3221 of insurance law is amended by adding a new paragraph 23 to read as follows:

(23) (A) Every insurer delivering a group or blanket policy or issuing a group or blanket policy for delivery in this state that provides coverage for medical, major medical or similar comprehensive-type coverage shall provide coverage for patient navigation services to improve access to care for individuals who are eligible for screening, follow-up or treatment services. Eligibility for patient navigation services coverage includes individuals with a serious condition that is expected to last at least three months and places the individual at high risk for one or more of the following:

(i) Hospitalization;

(ii) Nursing home placement;

(iii) A sudden worsening of preexisting symptoms;

(iv) Physical or mental decline; or

(v) Death.

(B) Patient navigation services shall include but not be limited to:

(i) Screening for nonclinical and social needs that do not require a licensed healthcare provider to complete;

(ii) Referrals and follow-up to connect individuals to services including, but not limited to transportation, employment, job training, food insecurity, childcare, housing, language or health literacy support;

(iii) Help with enrollment or maintaining enrollment in government programs or other assistance programs;

(iv) Arranging for and accompaniment to in-person and virtual healthcare visits; or

(v) Other prevention, screening and treatment health education, health navigation, health advocacy, or individual supports including transition of care supports.

(C) Reimbursement shall be provided to individuals who are trained and have completed a national patient navigation certification or credentialing program, or other certification or training program approved by the department of health. Approved individuals shall be employed by or in consultation with facilities certified under article twenty-eight of the public health law, diagnostic and treatment centers, federally qualified health centers, clinics, physicians or other licensed healthcare providers, to provide patient navigation services. Individuals authorized to provide patient navigation services shall do so under the gener-

al supervision of a licensed physician or other licensed healthcare provider.

§ 3. Section 4303 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new subsection (ww) to read as follows:

(ww) (1) Every policy which provides medical, major medical, or similar comprehensive-type coverage shall provide coverage for patient navigation services to improve access to care for individuals who are eligible for screening, follow-up or treatment services. Eligibility for patient navigation services coverage includes individuals with a serious condition that is expected to last at least three months and places the individual at high risk for one or more of the following:

(A) Hospitalization;

(B) Nursing home placement;

(C) A sudden worsening of preexisting symptoms;

(D) Physical or mental decline; or

(E) Death.

(2) Patient navigation services shall include but not be limited to:

(A) Screening for nonclinical and social needs that do not require a licensed healthcare provider to complete;

(B) Referrals and follow-up to connect individuals to services including, but not limited to transportation, employment, job training, food insecurity, childcare, housing, language or health literacy support;

(C) Help with enrollment or maintaining enrollment in government programs or other assistance programs;

(D) Arranging for and accompaniment to in-person and virtual healthcare visits; or

(E) Other prevention, screening and treatment health education, health navigation, health advocacy, or individual supports including transition of care supports.

(3) Reimbursement shall be provided to individuals who are trained and have completed a national patient navigation certification or credentialing program, or other certification or training program approved by the department of health. Approved individuals shall be employed by or in consultation with facilities certified under article twenty-eight of the public health law, diagnostic and treatment centers, federally qualified health centers, clinics, physicians or other licensed healthcare providers, to provide patient navigation services. Individuals authorized to provide patient navigation services shall do so under the general supervision of a licensed physician or other licensed healthcare provider.

§ 4. Subdivision 2 of section 365-a of the social services law is amended by adding a new paragraph (nn) to read as follows:

(nn) (i) patient navigation services to improve access to care for individuals who are eligible for screening, follow-up or treatment services. Eligibility for patient navigation services coverage includes individuals with a serious condition that is expected to last at least three months and places the individual at high risk for one or more of the following:

(A) hospitalization;

(B) nursing home placement;

(C) a sudden worsening of preexisting symptoms;

(D) physical or mental decline; or

(E) death.

(ii) Patient navigation services shall include but not be limited to:

(A) screening for nonclinical and social needs that do not require a licensed healthcare provider to complete;

(B) referrals and follow-up to connect individuals to services including, but not limited to transportation, employment, job training, food insecurity, childcare, housing, language or health literacy support;

(C) help with enrollment or maintaining enrollment in government programs or other assistance programs;

(D) arranging for and accompaniment to in-person and virtual healthcare visits; or

(E) other prevention, screening and treatment health education, health navigation, health advocacy, or individual supports including transition of care supports.

(iii) Reimbursement shall be provided to individuals who are trained and have completed a national patient navigation certification or credentialing program, or other certification or training program approved by the department of health. Approved individuals shall be employed by or in consultation with facilities certified under article twenty-eight of the public health law, diagnostic and treatment centers, federally qualified health centers, clinics, physicians or other licensed healthcare providers, to provide patient navigation services. Individuals authorized to provide patient navigation services shall do so under the general supervision of a licensed physician or other licensed healthcare provider.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law and shall apply to all policies and contracts issued, renewed, modified, altered or amended on or after such date. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.