



[SF 165](#) – Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder, Insurance Coverage (LSB1084XS)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[Senate File 165](#) requires health insurance carriers that offer individual, group, or small group contracts, policies, or plans in the State that provide for third-party payment or prepayment of health or medical expenses to offer coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of PANS (pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome) and PANDAS (pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections) to a covered individual who is age 18 or younger, as recommended by a health care professional. The Bill also requires the Insurance Division to adopt rules to administer the requirement for identified health insurance carriers. The Bill is effective January 1, 2022.

Background

PANS, which can be caused by infections such as influenza and varicella, and PANDAS, which is associated with streptococcal infections, may present in a neurologically severe manner that is resistant or slow to respond to forms of treatment used in mild to moderate cases. Intravenous immunoglobulin treatment (IVIG) or therapeutic plasma exchange may be clinically indicated for these severe cases.

Assumptions

- The exact prevalence of PANS and PANDAS is currently unknown; however, it is estimated that approximately 4.0% of individuals 18 years of age or younger have Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and that approximately 1.0% of these OCD cases are due to PANDAS/PANS. One estimate is that approximately 1 in 200 children has PANDAS/PANS.
- Approximately 13,400 children ages 18 and younger are covered under the State of Iowa health insurance plan.
- The cost of IVIG, therapeutic plasma exchange, and other associated treatments is estimated at \$5,000 to \$25,000 per case.
- Roughly 20.0% of PANDAS/PANS cases, per the incidence rate of associated behavioral disorders, may present in a severe manner that is unresponsive to other treatments.

Fiscal Impact

The cost of SF 165 across all State funds ranges from approximately \$65,000 to \$350,000, assuming 13 to 14 children covered by the State of Iowa health insurance plan have exhausted other treatment protocols and are identified as candidates for IVIG or therapeutic plasma exchange. There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Human Services or the Medicaid program as Medicaid currently covers IVIG and therapeutic plasma exchange.

Sources

Wellmark
Department of Human Services

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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