

FEB 5 2004
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2184
BY UPMEYER

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to third-party payor compensation of certified
2 registered nurse first assistants.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2184

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 249A.15A CERTIFIED REGISTERED
2 NURSE FIRST ASSISTANT -- ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT.

3 1. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
4 17A entitling a certified registered nurse first assistant who
5 meets the requirements of this section and is acting within
6 the scope of practice of a certified registered nurse first
7 assistant to payment for services provided to recipients of
8 medical assistance.

9 2. To be eligible for reimbursement under this section as
10 a certified registered nurse first assistant, an individual
11 shall meet all of the following requirements:

12 a. Be currently licensed as a registered nurse pursuant to
13 chapter 152.

14 b. Be currently certified in perioperative nursing. For
15 the purpose of this paragraph, "perioperative nursing" means a
16 practice of nursing in which a registered nurse provides
17 preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative nursing care
18 to surgical patients.

19 c. Hold a degree or certificate from and have successfully
20 completed a formal registered nurse first assistant program
21 approved by the department.

22 3. The department shall adopt rules establishing
23 reimbursement of certified registered nurse first assistants
24 at a rate which is a percentage of the surgeon's fee which may
25 be the percentage established under the Medicare program for
26 reimbursement of surgical first assisting services.

27 Sec. 2. Section 509.3, Code 2003, is amended by adding the
28 following new subsection:

29 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. A provision shall be made available to
30 policyholders, under group policies covering hospital,
31 medical, or surgical expenses for payment of necessary medical
32 or surgical care and treatment provided by a certified
33 registered nurse first assistant, if the care and treatment
34 are provided within the scope of the person's license and if
35 the policy would pay for the care and treatment if the care

1 and treatment were provided by a person practicing a health-
2 related profession required to be licensed or certified
3 pursuant to chapter 147 who is practicing within their scope
4 of practice. The policy shall provide that the policyholder
5 may reject the coverage or provision if the coverage or
6 provision for similar services which may be provided by a
7 certified registered nurse first assistant is rejected for all
8 providers of services required to be licensed or certified
9 pursuant to chapter 147 practicing within their scope of
10 practice. This subsection applies to all group policies
11 delivered or issued for delivery on or after July 1, 2004, and
12 to existing group policies on their next anniversary or
13 renewal date, or upon expiration of the applicable collective
14 bargaining contract, if any, whichever is later. This
15 subsection does not apply to blanket, short-term travel,
16 accident-only, limited or specified disease, or individual or
17 group conversion policies, or policies designed only for
18 issuance to persons for coverage under Title XVIII of the
19 federal Social Security Act, or any other similar coverage
20 under a state or federal government plan.

21 Sec. 3. Section 509.3, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 2003,
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 In addition to the provisions required in subsections 1
24 through 7 8, the commissioner shall require provisions through
25 the adoption of rules implementing the federal Health
26 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Pub. L. No. 104-
27 191.

28 Sec. 4. Section 514B.1, subsection 5, Code 2003, is
29 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

30 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. The health care services available to
31 enrollees under prepaid group plans covering hospital,
32 medical, or surgical expenses shall include a provision for
33 payment of necessary medical or surgical care and treatment
34 provided by a certified registered nurse first assistant, if
35 the care and treatment are provided within the scope of the

1 person's license and the plan would pay for the care and
2 treatment if the care and treatment were provided by a person
3 practicing a health-related profession required to be licensed
4 or certified pursuant to chapter 147 who is practicing within
5 their scope of practice. The plan shall provide that the plan
6 enrollees may reject the coverage or provision if the coverage
7 or provision for similar services which may be provided by a
8 certified registered nurse first assistant is rejected for all
9 providers of services required to be licensed or certified
10 pursuant to chapter 147 practicing within their scope of
11 practice. This provision applies to services provided under
12 plans made on or after July 1, 2004, and to existing group
13 plans on their next anniversary or renewal date, or upon
14 expiration of the applicable collective bargaining contract,
15 if any, whichever is later. This paragraph does not apply to
16 enrollees eligible for coverage under Title XVIII of the
17 federal Social Security Act, or any other similar coverage
18 under a state or federal government plan.

19 EXPLANATION

20 This bill provides for third-party reimbursement for
21 services provided by certified registered nurse first
22 assistants (CRNFAs). The bill directs the department to adopt
23 rules pursuant to Code chapter 17A entitling a CRNFA who meets
24 specified requirements to payment for services provided to
25 recipients of medical assistance. The bill directs the
26 department to establish reimbursement of CRNFAs at a rate
27 which is a percentage of the surgeon's fee which may be the
28 percentage established under the Medicare program for
29 reimbursement of the surgical first assisting services.

30 The bill also requires group insurance policies and health
31 maintenance organization contracts to cover or include care
32 and treatment provided by a CRNFA if the policy or available
33 health care service currently covers or includes the care and
34 treatment if provided by a person practicing a health-related
35 profession required to be licensed or certified pursuant to

1 Code chapter 147 who is practicing within their scope of
2 practice. The bill also requires that the care or treatment
3 be within the scope of practice of the CRNFA. The requirement
4 applies to policies delivered and issued and services provided
5 under plans on or after July 1, 2004, and to existing policies
6 or plans on the latter of the anniversary, renewal, or
7 expiration of a collective bargaining contract.

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