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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 16

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 29 AND 31 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO OVARIAN CANCER.

1 WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the second most common gynecologic cancer in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, ovarian cancer has the highest mortality rate of any gynecologic cancer; and

3 WHEREAS, ovarian cancer affects women of any age; and

4 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that 19,680 women in the United States will receive a new
5 diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 2024; and

6 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that 12,740 women in the United States will die from ovarian
7 cancer in 2024; and

8 WHEREAS, studies supported by the National Cancer Institute have shown that there are racial disparities among
9 women with ovarian cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, research has shown that African-American women with ovarian cancer do not survive as long as non-
11 Hispanic White women with ovarian cancer as a result of several factors including:

12 (1) Access to effective healthcare; and

13 (2) Socioeconomic factors; and

14 (3) Gaps in health insurance coverage; and

15 WHEREAS research has shown that women with a history of endometriosis and uterine fibroids have an elevated
16 risk of ovarian cancer; and

17 WHEREAS research has shown that racial disparities in access to healthcare reflect racial differences in the
18 diagnosis of endometriosis among African-American women; and

19 WHEREAS research supported by the National Institutes of Health found that African-American women are more
20 likely to develop fibroids, to have them at an earlier age, and to experience more severe symptoms than White women; and

21 WHEREAS, less than 20% of ovarian cancers are diagnosed at an early stage; and

22 WHEREAS, early-stage ovarian cancers often do not present easily identifiable symptoms; and

23 WHEREAS, by the time physical symptoms of ovarian cancer become present, the cancer has likely reached an
24 advanced stage and spread to other organs; and

25 WHEREAS, ovarian cancer has a very high recurrence rate resulting in an overall survival rate of less than 50%;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, there is no simple and reliable way to screen for ovarian cancer; and

28 WHEREAS, the majority of women diagnosed in later stages do not survive past the five year milestone.

29 NOW, THEREFORE:

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

31 Section 1. Amend Chapter 52, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
32 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

33 § 5218. Ovarian cancer screening and monitoring tests.

34 (a) For purposes of this section:

35 (1) “At risk for ovarian cancer” means any of the following:

36 a. Having a family history of any of the following:

37 1. One or more first- or second-degree relatives with ovarian cancer.

38 2. Clusters of women relatives with breast cancer.

39 3. Nonpolyposis colorectal cancer.

40 b. Testing positive for any of the following genetic mutations:

41 1. BRCA1 or BRCA2.

42 2. Lynch Syndrome.

43 c. Having a personal history of any of the following:

44 1. Ovarian cancer.

45 2. Endometriosis.

46 3. Unexplained infertility.

47 4. Uterine Fibroids.

48 (2) “Monitoring tests” and “screening tests” mean tests and examinations for ovarian cancer using any of the
49 following methods that are recommended by a patient’s physician:

50 a. Tumor marker tests supported by national clinical guidelines, national standards of care, or peer
51 reviewed medical literature.

52 b. Transvaginal ultrasound.

53 c. Pelvic examination.
54 d. Other screening tests supported by national clinical guidelines, national standards of care, or peer
55 reviewed medical literature.

56 (b) The plan shall provide coverage for all of the following:

57 (1) Monitoring tests for ovarian cancer after a woman is treated for ovarian cancer.

58 (2) Annual screening tests for women at risk for ovarian cancer.

59 (c) Coverage required by subsection (b) of this section must be at no cost to a covered individual, including
60 deductible payments and cost-sharing amounts charged once a deductible is met.

61 Section 2. Amend Chapter 5, Title 31 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
62 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

63 § 533. Ovarian cancer screening and monitoring tests.

64 (a) For purposes of this section:

65 (1) “At risk for ovarian cancer” means any of the following:

66 a. Having a family history of any of the following:

67 1. One or more first- or second-degree relatives with ovarian cancer.

68 2. Clusters of women relatives with breast cancer.

69 3. Nonpolyposis colorectal cancer.

70 b. Testing positive for any of the following genetic mutations:

71 1. BRCA1 or BRCA2.

72 2. Lynch Syndrome.

73 c. Having a personal history of any of the following:

74 1. Ovarian cancer.

75 2. Endometriosis.

76 3. Unexplained infertility.

77 4. Uterine fibroids.

78 (2) “Carrier” means any entity that provides health insurance under § 505(3) of this title.

79 (3) “Monitoring tests” and “screening tests” mean tests and examinations for ovarian cancer using any of the
80 following methods that are recommended by a patient’s physician:

81 a. Tumor marker tests supported by national clinical guidelines, national standards of care, or peer
82 reviewed medical literature.

83 b. Transvaginal ultrasound.
84 c. Pelvic examination.
85 d. Other screening tests supported by national clinical guidelines, national standards of care, or peer
86 reviewed medical literature.

87 (b) Carriers shall provide coverage for all the following:

88 (1) Monitoring tests for ovarian cancer after a woman is treated for ovarian cancer.

89 (2) Annual screening tests for women at risk for ovarian cancer.

90 (c) Coverage required by subsection (b) of this section must be at no cost in all health benefits plans delivered or
91 issued for delivery by carriers.

92 Section 3. This Act applies to all policies, contracts, or certificates issued, renewed, modified, altered, amended,
93 or reissued after December 31, 2024.

SYNOPSIS

This Act requires that Medicaid and State employee health plans cover: (1) ovarian cancer monitoring tests for women treated for ovarian cancer; and (2) annual screening tests for women at risk for ovarian cancer.