



SPONSOR: Rep. Brady & Rep. Keeley & Rep. Heffernan & Sen. McDowell
Reps. Bennett, Carson, Hudson, Manolacos, Schooley, D.P. Williams; Sens. Blevins, Hall-Long, Henry, Sorenson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
146th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 76

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACTS AND GROUP AND BLANKET HEALTH INSURANCE.

1 WHEREAS, as of 2007, more than 1.7 million people in America were living with limb loss, with approximately
2 185,000 new amputations occurring each year; and

3 WHEREAS, prosthetic devices enable amputees to continue working and living productive lives and individuals
4 who use prosthetic devices generally experience less pain and disability in their daily lives; and

5 WHEREAS, prosthetic parity laws require health insurers to offer or provide coverage for prosthetic care equal to,
6 and under terms no less favorable than, coverage offered for essential medical care; and

7 WHEREAS, as of 2008, 11 states - California, Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New
8 Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont – have adopted prosthetic parity laws; and

9 WHEREAS, states which have adopted prosthetic parity laws have not seen a significant increase in the cost of
10 health insurance, as prosthetic parity reduces spending on physical rehabilitation, future complications and secondary
11 conditions associated with limb loss; and

12 WHEREAS, the General Assembly believes it is appropriate to adopt prosthetic parity for the benefit Delaware's
13 citizens who have experienced limb loss.

14 NOW, THEREFORE:

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

16 Section 1. Amend Chapter 33, Title 18 of the Delaware Code by adding a new section as follows:

17 "§ 3361. Reimbursement for orthotic and prosthetic services.

18 (a) Definitions - - For purposes of this section:

19 (1) "Federal reimbursement rates" means the current listed fee schedule from the Centers for Medicare and
20 Medicaid Services, listing the current Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and the corresponding
21 reimbursement rates.

22 (2) "Orthosis" means a custom fabricated brace or support that is designed based on medical necessity. Orthosis
23 does not include prefabricated or direct-formed orthotic devices or any of the following assistive technology devices:
24 commercially available knee orthoses used following injury or surgery; spastic muscle-tone inhibiting orthoses; upper
25 extremity adaptive equipment; finger splints; hand splints; wrist gauntlets; face masks used following burns; wheelchair
26 seating that is an integral part of the wheelchair and not worn by the patient independent of the wheelchair; fabric or elastic
27 supports; corsets; low-temperature formed plastic splints; trusses; elastic hose; canes; crutches; cervical collars; dental
28 appliances; and any other similar devices, as determined Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services,
29 commonly carried in stock by a pharmacy, department store, or surgical supply facility.

30 (3) "Orthotics" means the science and practice of evaluating, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling,
31 fitting, adjusting, or servicing, as well as providing the initial training necessary to accomplish the fitting of, an orthosis for
32 the support, correction, or alleviation of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal dysfunction, disease, injury, or deformity. The
33 practice of orthotics encompasses evaluation, treatment, and consultation; with basic observational gait and postural
34 analysis, orthotists assess and design orthoses to maximize function and provide not only the support but also the alignment
35 necessary to either prevent or correct a deformity or to improve the safety and efficiency of mobility, locomotion, or both.
36 Orthotic practice includes providing continuing patient care in order to assess its effect on the patient's tissues and to assure
37 proper fit and function of the orthotic device through periodic evaluation.

38 (4) "Prosthesis" means an artificial limb that is alignable or, in lower-extremity applications, capable of weight
39 bearing. Prosthesis means an artificial medical device that is not surgically implanted and that is used to replace a missing
40 limb, appendage, or other external human body part including an artificial limb, hand, or foot. The term does not include
41 artificial eyes, ears, noses, dental appliances, ostomy products, or devices such as eyelashes or wigs.

42 (5) "Prosthetics" means the science and practice of evaluation, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling,
43 fitting, aligning, adjusting, or servicing, as well as providing the initial training necessary to accomplish the fitting of, a
44 prosthesis through the replacement of external parts of a human body lost due to amputation, congenital deformities, or
45 abscesses. The practice of prosthetics also includes the generation of an image, form, or mold that replicates the patient's
46 body or body segment and that requires rectification of dimensions, contours, and volumes for use in the design and
47 fabrication of a socket to accept a residual anatomic limb to, in turn, create an artificial appendage that is designed either to
48 support body weight or to improve or restore function or cosmesis, or both. Involved in the practice of prosthetics is
49 observational gait analysis and clinical assessment of the requirements necessary to refine and mechanically fix the relative
50 position of various parts of the prosthesis to maximize function, stability, and safety of the patient. The practice of

51 prosthetics includes providing and continuing patient care in order to assess the prosthetic device's effect on the patient's
52 tissues and to assure proper fit and function of the prosthetic device through periodic evaluation.

53 (b) Every individual health insurance contract, plan, or policy which is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed
54 in this State on or after January 1, 2012, and which provides medical coverage that includes coverage for physician services
55 in a physician's office, and every policy which provides major medical or similar comprehensive type coverage, shall
56 provide coverage for benefits for orthotic and prosthetic devices that equal those benefits provided for under federal laws
57 for health insurance for the aged and disabled pursuant to 42 U.S.C. sections 1395k, 1395l, and 1395m and 42 CFR
58 414.202, 414.210, 414.228, and 410.100, as applicable to this section.

59 (c) A health insurance contract, plan, or policy may require prior authorization for orthotic and prosthetic devices
60 in the same manner that prior authorization is required for any other covered benefit.

61 (d) Covered benefits for orthotic or prosthetic devices shall be limited to the most appropriate model that
62 adequately meets the medical needs of the patient as determined by the insured's treating physician.

63 (e) The repair and replacement of orthotic or prosthetic devices also shall be covered subject to co-payments and
64 deductibles, unless necessitated by misuse or loss.

65 (f) An insurer may require, if coverage is provided through a managed care plan, that benefits mandated pursuant
66 to this section be covered benefits only if the orthotic or prosthetic devices are provided by a vendor, and orthotic or
67 prosthetic services are rendered by a provider, who is licensed by the State of Delaware to provide orthotics and prosthetics.

68 (g) This section shall not apply to policies that exclusively cover:

- 69 (1) Hospital confinement indemnity;
- 70 (2) Disability income;
- 71 (3) Accident only;
- 72 (4) Long-term care;
- 73 (5) Medicare supplement;
- 74 (6) Limited benefit health;
- 75 (7) Specified disease indemnity;
- 76 (8) Sickness or bodily injury or death by accident or both; or (9) Other limited benefit policies.”

77 Section 2. Amend Chapter 33, Title 18 of the Delaware Code by adding a new section as follows:

78 “§ 3571E. Reimbursement for orthotic and prosthetic services.

79 (a) Definitions - - For purposes of this section:

80 (1) "Federal reimbursement rates" means the current listed fee schedule from the Centers for Medicare and
81 Medicaid Services, listing the current Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and the corresponding
82 reimbursement rates.

83 (2) "Orthosis" means a custom fabricated brace or support that is designed based on medical necessity. Orthosis
84 does not include prefabricated or direct-formed orthotic devices or any of the following assistive technology devices:
85 commercially available knee orthoses used following injury or surgery; spastic muscle-tone inhibiting orthoses; upper
86 extremity adaptive equipment; finger splints; hand splints; wrist gauntlets; face masks used following burns; wheelchair
87 seating that is an integral part of the wheelchair and not worn by the patient independent of the wheelchair; fabric or elastic
88 supports; corsets; low-temperature formed plastic splints; trusses; elastic hose; canes; crutches; cervical collars; dental
89 appliances; and any other similar devices as determined Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services,
90 commonly carried in stock by a pharmacy, department store, or surgical supply facility.

91 (3) "Orthotics" means the science and practice of evaluating, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling,
92 fitting, adjusting, or servicing, as well as providing the initial training necessary to accomplish the fitting of, an orthosis for
93 the support, correction, or alleviation of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal dysfunction, disease, injury, or deformity. The
94 practice of orthotics encompasses evaluation, treatment, and consultation; with basic observational gait and postural
95 analysis, orthotists assess and design orthoses to maximize function and provide not only the support but also the alignment
96 necessary to either prevent or correct a deformity or to improve the safety and efficiency of mobility, locomotion, or both.
97 Orthotic practice includes providing continuing patient care in order to assess its effect on the patient's tissues and to assure
98 proper fit and function of the orthotic device through periodic evaluation.

99 (4) "Prosthesis" means an artificial limb that is alignable or, in lower-extremity applications, capable of weight
100 bearing. Prosthesis means an artificial medical device that is not surgically implanted and that is used to replace a missing
101 limb, appendage, or other external human body part including an artificial limb, hand, or foot. The term does not include
102 artificial eyes, ears, noses, dental appliances, ostomy products, or devices such as eyelashes or wigs.

103 (5) "Prosthetics" means the science and practice of evaluation, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling,
104 fitting, aligning, adjusting, or servicing, as well as providing the initial training necessary to accomplish the fitting of, a
105 prosthesis through the replacement of external parts of a human body lost due to amputation, congenital deformities, or
106 abscesses. The practice of prosthetics also includes the generation of an image, form, or mold that replicates the patient's
107 body or body segment and that requires rectification of dimensions, contours, and volumes for use in the design and
108 fabrication of a socket to accept a residual anatomic limb to, in turn, create an artificial appendage that is designed either to
109 support body weight or to improve or restore function or cosmesis, or both. Involved in the practice of prosthetics is

110 observational gait analysis and clinical assessment of the requirements necessary to refine and mechanically fix the relative
111 position of various parts of the prosthesis to maximize function, stability, and safety of the patient. The practice of
112 prosthetics includes providing and continuing patient care in order to assess the prosthetic device's effect on the patient's
113 tissues and to assure proper fit and function of the prosthetic device through periodic evaluation.

114 (b) Every group and blanket health insurance contract, plan, or policy which is delivered, issued for delivery, or
115 renewed in this State on or after January 1, 2012, and which provides medical coverage that includes coverage for physician
116 services in a physician's office, and every policy which provides major medical or similar comprehensive type coverage,
117 shall provide coverage for benefits for orthotic and prosthetic devices that equal those benefits provided for under federal
118 laws for health insurance for the aged and disabled pursuant to 42 U.S.C. sections 1395k, 1395l, and 1395m and 42 CFR
119 414.202, 414.210, 414.228, and 410.100, as applicable to this section.

120 (c) A health insurance contract, plan, or policy may require prior authorization for orthotic and prosthetic devices
121 in the same manner that prior authorization is required for any other covered benefit.

122 (d) Covered benefits for orthotic or prosthetic devices shall be limited to the most appropriate model that
123 adequately meets the medical needs of the patient as determined by the insured's treating physician.

124 (e) The repair and replacement of orthotic or prosthetic devices also shall be covered subject to co-payments and
125 deductibles, unless necessitated by misuse or loss.

126 (f) An insurer may require, if coverage is provided through a managed care plan, that benefits mandated pursuant
127 to this section be covered benefits only if the orthotic or prosthetic devices are provided by a vendor, and orthotic or
128 prosthetic services are rendered by a provider, who is licensed by the State of Delaware to provide orthotics and prosthetics.

129 (g) This section shall not apply to policies that exclusively cover:

130 (1) Hospital confinement indemnity;

131 (2) Disability income;

132 (3) Accident only;

133 (4) Long-term care;

134 (5) Medicare supplement;

135 (6) Limited benefit health;

136 (7) Specified disease indemnity;

137 (8) Sickness or bodily injury or death by accident, or both; or (9) Other limited benefit policies.”

138

SYNOPSIS

This Act assures prosthetic parity for Delaware citizens who have experienced limb loss by requiring that all individual and group health insurance policies provide orthotic and prosthetic devices at a reimbursement rate equal to the Federal reimbursement rate for the aged and disabled.