

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REMOVING BARRIERS TO NON-OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT S.659/H.990

S.659/H.990 SPONSORS

- Representative Marjorie Decker
- Senator John F. Keenan

S.659/H.990 BACKGROUND

The CARE Act, signed by Governor Baker in 2018, requires insurance coverage of a “broad spectrum of pain management services, including, but not limited to, those that serve as alternatives to opioid prescribing” and directed the Division of Insurance (DOI) to write guidance pursuant to the Act.

DOI Guidance requires plans to cover at least 2 alternative non-opiate medications and 3 alternative non-medication treatment modalities for the management of pain.

S.659/H.990 SUMMARY

This bill would prohibit carriers from requiring prior authorization for the alternative medications and non-medication treatments modalities for pain identified by carriers as necessary to comply with DOI Guidance.

The bill would also require carriers to make educational materials about the covered pain management services available on their websites and to annually distribute those materials to providers and members within their networks.

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STATS AND FACTS

WHAT IS ACUTE PAIN?

Happens suddenly, starts out sharp or intense, and serves as a warning sign of disease or threat to the body – generally lasts from a few minutes to less than three months.

WHAT IS CHRONIC PAIN?

Chronic pain can be defined as pain that persists most days or every day for three months or more. For some individuals, the pain can last a lifetime.

80 MILLION

Americans experience acute pain each year

51 MILLION

American adults, or 21% of the population, live with chronic pain

Pain is the
MOST COMMON REASON
Americans access the healthcare system

In Mass., there are approximately
ONE MILLION
residents with chronic pain and **395K** with high-impact chronic pain

High-impact chronic pain devastates a person's quality of life, negatively affecting all aspects of daily functioning including sleep, work, social activities and relationships

TREATMENT OF PAIN

Pain control is a matter of combining several pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments to get the pain down to manageable levels, often referred to as a multimodal, integrative approach. The particular combination of treatments is different for each person with pain. Consequently, people with chronic pain need access to a broad range of treatments to try