

April 3, 2001

S 781. HEALTH INSURANCE: CLINICAL TRIALS COVERAGE. TO REQUIRE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS AND THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' COMPREHENSIVE MAJOR MEDICAL PLAN TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR PATIENT COSTS INCURRED AS A RESULT OF TREATMENT PROVIDED IN A CLINICAL TRIAL FOR ALL CANCERS AND FOR LIFE-THREATENING, DEGENERATIVE, OR PERMANENTLY DISABLING CONDITIONS. Adds new GS 58-3-216 as title indicates for treatment being provided in phase II, III, or IV clinical trial. Requires that treatment be in trial approved by NIH, NIH cooperative group or center, U.S. Dep't of Defense or Dep't of Veterans Affairs, or Institutional Review Board of NC institution with multiple project assurance contract approved by Office of Protection from Research Risks of NIH. Requires that coverage include coverage for patient cost incurred for drugs and devices approved for sale by U.S. FDA, whether or not FDA approval has approved drug or device for use in treating the patient's particular condition. Requires insurers to provide process for expedited review of request for coverage denied by insurer, with review and final determination within five business days after request for review is received. Amends GS 135-40.1 and 135-40.7 to include comparable requirements in TSE Comprehensive Major Medical Plan. Effective as to Comprehensive Major Medical Plan on Jan 1, 2002; effective for other health benefit plans delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after Jan 1, 2002.

Intro. by Odom.

Ref. to Insurance	GS 58, 135
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