

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 480
Mar 27, 2019
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10263-MR-99

Short Title: NC Cancer Treatment Fairness.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Zachary, Lewis, and Lambeth (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN COVERAGE FOR ORALLY
3 ADMINISTERED ANTICANCER DRUGS.

4 Whereas, advances in medical research have led to significant new developments of
5 various medical treatments; and

6 Whereas, these treatments offer patients a wide range of new choices to combat very
7 serious diseases; and

8 Whereas, the area of cancer treatment has been one of the fields that has seen these
9 significant new medical advancements; and

10 Whereas, in recent years, oral chemotherapy treatments have been developed that
11 provide viable alternatives to traditional intravenous cancer treatments for patients; and

12 Whereas, this oral chemotherapy treatment offers the treating physician and the
13 patient a choice in relation to treatment options; and

14 Whereas, this choice is sometimes limited as the oral chemotherapy treatments are in
15 most cases covered under the prescription drug benefit of an insurance plan rather than under the
16 major medical insurance benefit of an insurance plan; and

17 Whereas, this discrepancy in coverage can limit a patient's ability to choose the oral
18 chemotherapy treatment because of the cost associated with the disparate treatment; Now,
19 therefore,

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

21 **SECTION 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
22 a new section to read as follows:

23 **"§ 58-3-282. Coverage for orally administered anticancer drugs.**

24 (a) Every health benefit plan offered by an insurer that provides coverage for prescribed,
25 orally administered anticancer drugs that are used to kill or slow the growth of cancerous cells
26 and that provides coverage for intravenously administered or injected anticancer drugs shall
27 provide coverage for prescribed, orally administered anticancer drugs on a basis no less favorable
28 than the coverage the policy, contract, or plan provides for the intravenously administered or
29 injected anticancer drugs.

30 (b) Coverage for orally administered anticancer drugs shall not be subject to any prior
31 authorization, dollar limit, co-payment, coinsurance, or deductible provision or to any other
32 out-of-pocket expense that does not apply to intravenously administered or injected anticancer
33 drugs.

34 (c) A policy, contract, or plan provider shall not achieve compliance with this section by
35 reclassifying anticancer drugs or by increasing patient cost-sharing, including any coinsurance,
36 co-payment, deductible, or other out-of-pocket expenses imposed on anticancer drugs. Any



1 policy, contract, or plan change that otherwise increases an out-of-pocket expense applied to
2 anticancer drugs must also be applied to the majority of comparable medical or pharmaceutical
3 benefits covered by the policy, contract, or plan."

4 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2020, and applies to insurance
5 contracts or policies issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.