

CHAPTER 359

(House Bill 316)

AN ACT concerning

Health Insurance Carriers - Standing Referral to Obstetrician for Pregnancy

FOR the purpose of requiring certain health insurance carriers ~~that do not allow direct access to specialists to provide members;~~ certain members under a policy or plan, who are pregnant with a standing referral to an obstetrician; providing that the obstetrician is responsible for the primary management of the member for a certain period of time; providing that a certain written treatment plan may not be required when a standing referral is to an obstetrician; and generally relating to standing referrals to obstetricians for pregnancy by health insurance carriers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Insurance

Section 15-830

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Insurance

15-830.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Carrier" means:

(i) an insurer that offers health insurance other than long-term care insurance or disability insurance;

(ii) a nonprofit health service plan;

(iii) a health maintenance organization;

(iv) a dental plan organization; or

(v) except for a managed care organization as defined in Title 15, Subtitle 1 of the Health - General Article, any other person that provides health benefit plans subject to State regulation.

(3) (i) "Member" means an individual entitled to health care benefits under a policy or plan issued or delivered in the State by a carrier.

(ii) "Member" includes a subscriber.