

Article - Health - General

Section 19-706(zz)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

Article - Insurance

15-713.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, OR BLANKET HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES AND CONTRACTS DELIVERED OR ISSUED FOR DELIVERY IN THE STATE BY INSURERS, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS, AND HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of an individual, group, or blanket health insurance policy OR CONTRACT SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION, if the policy OR CONTRACT provides for reimbursement for a service that is within the lawful scope of practice of a licensed podiatrist, the insured or any other person covered by OR ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT UNDER the policy OR CONTRACT is entitled to THE SAME AMOUNT OF reimbursement for the service regardless of whether the service is performed by a physician or licensed podiatrist.

(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT, AND MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED AS PROHIBITING, THE DETERMINATION OF REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE, THE PREEMINENT QUALIFICATIONS OF A PHYSICIAN OR PODIATRIST, OR THE NEED TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN AN UNDERSERVED AREA OF THE STATE.

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(ZZ) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-713 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE APPLY TO HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Insurance Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before October 1, 2006 on the effect of this Act, including fees paid to podiatrists and physicians, health insurance premiums, podiatrist and physician participation in third party payer programs, and any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action.~~

SECTION 3. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act applies to all policies and contracts subject to this Act that are delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in the State on or after October 1, 2004.

SECTION 4. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2004.