

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 444 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, FEE, FLOOD, McNEILL, SANCHEZ, PROBST, SCHLOSSBERG, KHAN, PIELLI, GUENST, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON, CIRESI, FREEMAN, FLEMING, OTTEN, STEELE, CERRATO AND E. NELSON, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), entitled "An
2 act relating to insurance; amending, revising, and
3 consolidating the law providing for the incorporation of
4 insurance companies, and the regulation, supervision, and
5 protection of home and foreign insurance companies, Lloyds
6 associations, reciprocal and inter-insurance exchanges, and
7 fire insurance rating bureaus, and the regulation and
8 supervision of insurance carried by such companies,
9 associations, and exchanges, including insurance carried by
10 the State Workmen's Insurance Fund; providing penalties; and
11 repealing existing laws," in casualty insurance, providing
12 for coverage for postacute neurorehabilitation.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known
16 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, is amended by adding a
17 section to read:

18 Section 635.11. Coverage for Postacute
19 Neurorehabilitation.--(a) All group or individual health or
20 sickness or accident insurance policies providing hospital or
21 medical/surgical coverage and all group or individual subscriber
22 contracts or certificates issued by any entity subject to 40

Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to hospital plan corporations) or 63
(relating to professional health services plan corporations),
this act, the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364), known
as the Health Maintenance Organization Act, or an "employee
welfare benefit plan" as the term is defined in section 3 of 29
U.S.C. Ch. 18 (relating to Employee Retirement Income Security
Program) providing hospital or medical/surgical coverage shall
also provide coverage for postacute neurorehabilitation for an
acquired brain injury. Coverage under this section shall include
medically necessary treatment related to or as a result of an
acquired brain injury, including cognitive communication
therapy, cognitive rehabilitation therapy, neurobehavioral
therapy, neurophysiological testing and treatment,
neuropsychological testing and treatment, functional
rehabilitation therapy, community reintegration services,
postacute transitional rehabilitation treatment and day
rehabilitation treatment and provide for such services as needed
in facility and home and community-based settings.

(b) Prior to payment for postacute neurorehabilitation
services, an insurer shall verify that the neurorehabilitation
individual practitioners and treatment facilities provide
services within the scope of the services provided under a
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
accredited rehabilitation program for brain injury or another
nationally recognized accredited rehabilitation program for
brain injury and are qualified to provide postacute care
rehabilitation services through possession of the appropriate
licenses, accreditation, training and experience deemed
customary and routine in the trade practice and according to
criteria specified in the Office of Long-Term Living's Home and

1 Community-Based Community HealthChoices Waiver.

2 (c) Coverage under this section may not limit the number of
3 days of covered postacute care, including any therapy or
4 treatment or rehabilitation, testing, remediation or other
5 service described under this section, or the number of days of
6 covered inpatient care to the extent that the treatment or care
7 is determined to be medically necessary as a result of and
8 related to an acquired brain injury. The insured's or enrollee's
9 treating physician shall determine whether treatment or care is
10 medically necessary for purposes of this paragraph in
11 consultation with the treatment or care provider, the insured or
12 enrollee and, if appropriate, members of the insured's or
13 enrollee's family. Any limitations shall be separately stated by
14 the Insurance Department.

15 (d) Coverage under this section shall not be subject to any
16 greater deductible, coinsurance, copayments or out-of-pocket
17 limits than any other benefit provided by the Insurance
18 Department.

19 (e) The Insurance Department shall promulgate rules and
20 regulations that require an insurer to provide adequate training
21 to personnel responsible for preauthorization of coverage or
22 utilization review for services under this section.

23 (f) This section shall not apply to the following types of
24 policies:

25 (1) Accident only.

26 (2) Limited benefit.

27 (3) Credit.

28 (4) Dental.

29 (5) Vision.

30 (6) Specified disease.

1 (7) Medicare supplement.

2 (8) Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed
3 Services (CHAMPUS) supplement.

4 (9) Long-term care or disability income.

5 (10) Workers' compensation.

6 (11) Automobile medical payment.

7 (12) Fixed indemnity.

8 (13) Hospital indemnity.

9 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
10 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
11 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Acquired brain injury" means an injury to the brain that
13 occurs after birth and can be caused by infectious diseases,
14 metabolic disorders, endocrine disorders or diminished oxygen,
15 brain tumors, toxins, disease that affects the blood supply to
16 the brain, stroke or a traumatic brain injury.

17 "Cognitive communication therapy" means the treatment of
18 problems with communication that have an underlying cause in a
19 cognitive deficit rather than a primary language or speech
20 deficit.

21 "Cognitive rehabilitation therapy" means a process of
22 relearning cognitive skills essential for daily living through
23 the coordinated specialized, integrated therapeutic treatments
24 which are provided in dynamic settings designed for efficient
25 and effective relearning following damage to brain cells or
26 brain chemistry due to brain injury.

27 "Community reintegration services" means incremental guided
28 real-world therapeutic training to develop skills essential for
29 an individual to participate in life to re-enter employment, to
30 go to school and engage in other productive activity, to safely

live independently and to participate in their community while
avoiding rehospitalization and long-term support needs.

"Day rehabilitation treatment" means a program that provides
assistance with acquisition, retention or improvement in self-
help, socialization and adaptive skills which is accomplished
through comprehensive day rehabilitation programming to acquire
more independent functioning and improved cognition,
communication and life skills.

"Functional rehabilitation therapy" means a structured
approach to rehabilitation for brain disorders which emphasizes
learning by doing and focuses relearning a specific task in a
prescribed format with maximum opportunity for repeated correct
practice. Compensatory strategies are developed for those skills
which are persistently impaired, and individuals are trained on
daily implementation.

"Neurobehavioral therapy" means a set of medical and
therapeutic assessment and treatments focused on behavioral
impairments associated with brain disease or injury and the
amelioration of such impairments through the development of pro-
social behavior.

"Neurophysiological testing and treatment" means a set of
medical and therapeutic assessment and treatments focused on
psychophysiological disorders or physical disorders associated
with central nervous system dysfunction.

"Neuropsychological testing and treatment" means a set of
medical and therapeutic assessment and treatments focused on
evaluating the cognitive, emotional, psychosocial and behavioral
deficits caused by brain injury.

"Preauthorization" means the provision of a reliable
representation to a physician or health care provider of whether

1 an insurer will pay the physician or health care provider for
2 proposed medical or health care services if the physician or
3 health care provider provides the services to the patient for
4 whom the services are proposed. The term includes
5 precertification, certification, recertification or any other
6 activity that involves providing a reliable representation by
7 the issuer to a physician or health care provider.

8 "Postacute transitional rehabilitation treatment" means
9 integrated medical and therapeutic services, treatment,
10 education and skills training within a 24-hours-a-day, seven-
11 days-a-week real-world environment of care in a home and
12 community setting.

13 Section 2. This act shall apply as follows:

14 (1) For health insurance policies for which either rates
15 or forms are required to be filed with the Federal Government
16 or the Insurance Department, the addition of section 635.11
17 of the act shall apply to any policy for which a form or rate
18 is first filed on or after the effective date of this
19 section.

20 (2) For health insurance policies for which neither
21 rates nor forms are required to be filed with the Federal
22 Government or the Insurance Department, the addition of
23 section 635.11 of the act shall apply to any policy issued or
24 renewed on or after 180 days after the effective date of this
25 section.

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.