



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1100

SENATE BILL NO. 3315

By Johnson

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3372

By White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 29; Title 50, Chapter 6 and Title 56, relative to workers' compensation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, § 50-6-102(17), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(17) "Utilization review" means evaluation of the necessity, appropriateness, efficiency and quality of medical care services, including the prescribing of one (1) or more Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances for pain management for a period of time exceeding ninety (90) days from the initial prescription of such controlled substances, provided to an injured or disabled employee based on medically accepted standards and an objective evaluation of those services provided; provided, that "utilization review" does not include the establishment of approved payment levels, a review of medical charges or fees, or an initial evaluation of an injured or disabled employee by a physician specializing in pain management;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-124, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (f):

(f) It is the intent of the general assembly to ensure the availability of quality medical care services for injured and disabled employees and to manage medical costs in workers' compensation matters by eradicating prescription drug abuse through the employment of the system established by subsection (a) to review any healthcare provider prescribing one (1) or more Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances for pain management to an injured or disabled employee for a period of time exceeding ninety (90) days from the initial prescription of such controlled substances.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, § 50-6-204, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() (1) If a treating physician determines that pain is persisting for an injured or disabled employee beyond an expected period for healing, the treating physician may either prescribe, if the physician is a qualified physician as defined in subdivision () (2)(B), or refer, such injured or disabled employee for pain management encompassing pharmacological, non-pharmacological and other approaches to manage chronic pain.

(2)(A) In the event that a treating physician refers an injured or disabled employee for pain management, the employee is entitled to a panel of qualified physicians as provided in subdivision (a)(4) except that, in light of the variation in availability of qualified pain management resources across the state, if the office of each qualified physician listed on the panel is located not more than one hundred seventy-five (175) miles from the injured or disabled employee's residence or place of employment, then the community requirement of subdivision (a)(4) shall not apply for the purposes of pain management.

(B) For the purposes of the panel required by subdivision () (2)(A), "qualified physician" shall mean an individual licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in this state and:

(i) Board certified in anesthesiology, neurological surgery, orthopedic surgery, radiology or physical medicine and rehabilitation through the:

(a) American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS);

(b) American Osteopathic Association (AOA); or

(c) Another organization authorized by the commissioner;

(ii) Board certified by an organization listed in subdivision (2)(B)(i)(a)-(c) in a specialty other than a specialty listed in subdivision (2)(B)(i) and who has completed an ABMS or AOA subspecialty board in pain medicine, or completed an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGMA) accredited pain fellowship; or

(iii) Serving as a clinical instructor in pain management at an accredited Tennessee medical training program.

(3) The injured or disabled employee is not entitled to a second opinion on the issue of impairment, diagnosis or prescribed treatment relating to pain management. However, on no more than one (1) occasion, if the injured or disabled employee submits a request in writing to the employer stating that the prescribed pain management fails to meet medically accepted standards, then the employer shall initiate and participate in utilization review as provided in this chapter for the limited purpose of determining whether the prescribed pain management meets medically accepted standards.

(4)(A) As a condition of receiving pain management that requires prescribing Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances, the injured or disabled employee may sign a formal written agreement with the physician prescribing the Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances acknowledging the conditions under which the injured or disabled employee may continue to be prescribed Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances and agreeing to comply with such conditions.

(B) If the injured or disabled employee violates any of the conditions of the agreement on more than one (1) occasion, then:

(i) The employee's right to pain management through the prescription of Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances under this chapter shall be terminated and the injured or disabled employee shall no longer be entitled under this chapter to the prescription of such substances for the management of pain;

(ii) For injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2012, the violation shall be deemed to be misconduct connected with the employee's employment for purposes of § 50-6-241(d); and

(iii) For injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2012, in the event such violation occurs prior to a finding that the injured or disabled employee is totally disabled as provided in § 50-6-207(4), through either a judgment or decree entered by a court following a workers' compensation trial or a settlement agreement approved pursuant to § 50-6-206, the incapacity to work due to lack of pain management shall not be considered when determining whether the injured employee is entitled to permanent total disability benefits as provided in § 50-6-207(4).

(C) A physician may disclose the employee's violation of the formal written agreement on the physician's own initiative. Upon request of the employer, a physician shall disclose the employee's violation of the formal written agreement as provided in this section.

(D) The formal written agreement shall include a notice to the employee in capitalized, conspicuous lettering on the face of the agreement the consequences for violating the terms of the agreement as provided for in this subsection ().

(E)(i) If an employer terminates an injured or disabled employee's right under this chapter to pain management through the prescription of Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances pursuant to alleged violations of the formal agreement as provided in subdivision () (4)(B), then the employee may either file a:

(a) Request for assistance pursuant to § 50-6-238, if the benefit review conference requirement has not been exhausted, and a workers' compensation specialist shall determine whether such violations occurred; or

(b) Petition in a court of proper jurisdiction as provided in § 50-6-225, if the benefit review conference requirement has been exhausted, for a determination of whether such violations occurred.

(ii) If an employer or insurer alleges that an injured or disabled employee is not entitled to reconsideration under § 50-6-241(d) or permanent total disability benefits as provided in § 50-6-207(4) because of the employee's alleged violations of the formal agreement as provided in subdivision () (4)(B), then a court shall also determine whether such violations occurred.

(5) Prescribing one (1) or more Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances for pain management treatment of an injured or disabled employee for a period of time exceeding ninety (90) days from the initial prescription of any such controlled substances is considered to be medical care services for the purposes of utilization review as provided in this chapter. The department is authorized to impose a fee for the administration of an appeal process for utilization review under this subdivision () (5) and subdivision () (3).

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to pain management, including the prescription of Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances, prescribed on or after such date.

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PASSED: May 1, 2012



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2012



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR