

SENATE BILL 475

Unofficial Copy  
J4

1999 Regular Session  
9r1658  
CF 9r1718

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By: **Senators Dorman and Astle**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Continuity of Patient Care Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a health maintenance organization, under certain  
4 circumstances, to reimburse a physician in an urgent care facility who provides  
5 certain medically necessary follow-up care to a member or subscriber of the  
6 health maintenance organization; prohibiting a health maintenance  
7 organization, under certain circumstances, from imposing on a member or  
8 subscriber any co-payment or other cost-sharing requirement that exceeds  
9 what the member or subscriber is required to pay for services rendered by a  
10 physician who is a member of the provider panel of the health maintenance  
11 organization; and generally relating to health maintenance organizations.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Health - General

14 Section 19-712.7

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Health - General**

20 19-712.7.

21 IF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZES, DIRECTS, REFERS,  
22 OR OTHERWISE ALLOWS A MEMBER OR SUBSCRIBER OF THE HEALTH MAINTENANCE  
23 ORGANIZATION TO USE A MEDICAL FACILITY THAT PROVIDES IMMEDIATE URGENT  
24 CARE SERVICES FOR A CONDITION THAT READILY NECESSITATES A SURGICAL  
25 PROCEDURE, THE HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION:

26 (1) SHALL REIMBURSE A PHYSICIAN IN THE URGENT CARE FACILITY  
27 FOR PROVIDING ANY MEDICALLY NECESSARY FOLLOW-UP CARE RELATED TO THE  
28 CONDITION FOR WHICH THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE WAS PERFORMED; AND

1           (2)       MAY NOT IMPOSE ON THE MEMBER OR SUBSCRIBER ANY  
2 CO-PAYMENT OR OTHER COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT THAT EXCEEDS WHAT THE  
3 MEMBER OR SUBSCRIBER IS REQUIRED TO PAY FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY A  
4 PHYSICIAN WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE PROVIDER PANEL OF THE HEALTH  
5 MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION.

6       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 1999.