

## Chapter 321

**(House Bill 820)**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Insurance – Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders –  
Modification of Coverage Requirements**

FOR the purpose of removing a requirement that rituximab be approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to be subject to a requirement on certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the treatment of certain pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders; and generally relating to health insurance coverage for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Insurance  
Section 15–855  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

**Article – Insurance**

15–855.

(a) This section applies to:

(1) insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups on an expense–incurred basis under health insurance policies or contracts that are issued or delivered in the State; and

(2) health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups under contracts that are issued or delivered in the State.

(b) [(1) Except as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an] **AN** entity subject to this section shall provide coverage for medically necessary diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, including the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

[(2) This subsection does not require coverage for rituximab unless the

federal Food and Drug Administration approves the use of rituximab for the treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.]

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the coverage required under this section may be subject to the annual deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance requirements imposed by an entity subject to this section for similar coverages under the same health insurance policy or contract.

(2) The annual deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance requirements imposed under paragraph (1) of this subsection for the coverage required under this section may not be greater than the annual deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance requirements imposed by the entity for similar coverages.

(d) (1) Except as provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome shall be coded as autoimmune encephalitis for billing and diagnosis purposes.

(2) If the American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services create and assign a specific code for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections or pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome for billing and diagnosis purposes, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome may be coded as:

- (i) autoimmune encephalitis;
- (ii) pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections; or
- (iii) pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2022.**