



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 441 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Prescription Digital Therapeutics
– Letter of Concern**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of concern on Senate Bill (SB) 441 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Prescription Digital Therapeutics. SB 441 will require the Maryland Medicaid Program to provide coverage for prescription digital therapeutics (PDTs) for Medicaid participants, subject to the limitations of the state budget. The bill defines PDTs as a software-based product, device, and/or internet application that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to treat health conditions and are prescribed to patients.

PDTs encompass a broad variety of technologies from a rapidly growing industry. Everything from virtual reality technologies, to cell phone applications, to physiological feedback sensors, to computer games, have been cleared by the FDA to treat various conditions. For example, Freespirad is a PDT designed to monitor and reduce panic symptoms through a respiration rate sensor and guided breathing exercises. While RelieVRx is an at-home adjunctive daily immersive virtual reality pain treatment for chronic lower back pain. Providing coverage for PDT technologies will add to costs because they supplement, not supplant, existing treatment and services. Lastly, there is limited data on the current and potential uptake of these broad range of therapeutics in the Maryland Medicaid population; therefore, MDH cannot estimate the potential fiscal impact to cover these services.

If you would like to discuss this further, have any questions, please contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs, at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary