

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 715

Short Title: Utilization Review/ASAM Criteria.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander; Earle, Easterling, Luebke, Melton, Miller, Wainwright, and G. Wilson.

Referred to: Insurance.

March 30, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT UTILIZATION REVIEW CRITERIA BE CRITERIA
2 ADOPTED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE
3 (ASAM).
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 58-50-61(d) reads as rewritten:

7 "(d) Program Operations. – In every utilization review program, an insurer or URO
8 shall use documented clinical review criteria that are based on sound clinical evidence
9 and that are periodically evaluated to assure ongoing efficacy. An insurer may develop its
10 own clinical review criteria or purchase or license clinical review criteria. Criteria for
11 determining when a patient needs to be placed in a substance abuse treatment program
12 shall be the diagnostic criteria contained in the most recent revision of the American
13 Society of Addiction Medicine Patient Placement Criteria for the Treatment of
14 Substance-Related Disorders. Qualified health care professionals shall administer the
15 utilization review program and oversee review decisions under the direction of a medical
16 doctor. A medical doctor shall evaluate the clinical appropriateness of noncertifications.
17 Compensation to persons involved in utilization review shall not contain any direct or
18 indirect incentives for them to make any particular review decisions. Compensation to
19 utilization reviewers shall not be directly or indirectly based on the number or type of

1 noncertifications they render. In issuing a utilization review decision, an insurer shall:
2 obtain all information required to make the decision, including pertinent clinical
3 information; employ a process to ensure that utilization reviewers apply clinical review
4 criteria consistently; and issue the decision in a timely manner pursuant to this section."

5 Section 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 1999, and applies to
6 utilization reviews conducted on and after that date.