Legislative Briefing

OHA Health Policy Action

Your guide to proposed health legislation, what we think about it, and what we're doing about it.

March 2013

H.B. No. 6381; *An Act Concerning Health Insurance Claim Forms And Uniform Treatment Authorization Forms For Mental Health Services*

What is this bill about?

H.B. 6381 will allow health care providers to use a national provider identifier in lieu of a federal tax identification number on an HCFA1500 payment claim form, and require the development of a uniform treatment authorization form for mental health services.

Currently there is no uniform method of obtaining patient consent for mental health treatment. Most providers use general and often office specific authorizations when obtaining consent to treat those with mental health needs. While individually this is unlikely to interfere with the patient's treatment, variation in the design, content and utilization of the consent form can significantly hamper a provider's effort to collaborate in the treatment of that patient. By promulgating a uniform authorization, the administrative burden that provider's encounter when confirming patient consent for treatment can be significantly reduced. This can reduce cost for providers, but more importantly, can minimize delays in treatment that may result from the reconciliation of often incomplete or conflicting forms. Of equal merit is the capacity to remain compliant with statutory and regulatory changes to consent models by permitting the Department of Public Health to update and disseminate this form as indicated and appropriate.

What are the implications of this bill for healthcare consumer advocacy?

H.B. 6381 will allow uniform consumer access to mental health services in the state.

Please refer all media, agency, and legislator inquiries to Vicki Veltri

Talking Points

1. OHA is aware of this proposed legislation and submitted written public testimony **in support** of this bill.
2. H.B. 6381 will serve the dual purpose of decreasing the administrative burden on health care providers and promoting uniform consumer access to mental health services.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to quality mental healthcare services through improvements to our healthcare system

OHA represents the collective voice of 3.5 million healthcare consumers. For our state to be competitive, our people must be healthy. Our mission is to • assure managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare • educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans • inform legislators of problems consumers face in accessing care and propose solutions to those problems.