

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 17-0852.02 Kristen Forrestal x4217

SENATE BILL 17-203

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd, Coram, Aguilar, Crowder, Kefalas

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Covarrubias and Kennedy,

Senate Committees

Business, Labor, & Technology

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST A CARRIER REQUIRING A**
102 **COVERED PERSON TO UNDERGO STEP THERAPY, AND, IN**
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING COVERAGE FOR A**
104 **PRESCRIBED MEDICATION THAT IS PART OF THE CARRIER'S**
105 **MEDICATION FORMULARY.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill prohibits a carrier from requiring a covered person to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 21, 2017

undergo step therapy:

- ! When being treated for a terminal condition; or
- ! If the covered person has tried a step-therapy-required drug under a health benefit plan and the drug was discontinued by the manufacturer.

A carrier that requires step therapy must have an override process for health care providers.

"Step therapy" is defined as a protocol that requires a covered person to use a prescription drug or sequence of prescription drugs, other than the drug that the covered person's health care provider recommends for the covered person's treatment, before the carrier provides coverage for the recommended drug.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 10-16-145 as
3 follows:

4 **10-16-145. Step therapy - prohibited - definitions.** (1) FOR THE
5 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "STEP THERAPY" MEANS A PROTOCOL
6 THAT REQUIRES A COVERED PERSON TO USE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG OR
7 SEQUENCE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, OTHER THAN THE DRUG THAT THE
8 COVERED PERSON'S HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RECOMMENDS FOR THE
9 COVERED PERSON'S TREATMENT, BEFORE THE CARRIER PROVIDES
10 COVERAGE FOR THE RECOMMENDED PRESCRIPTION DRUG.

11
12 (2) A CARRIER SHALL NOT REQUIRE A COVERED PERSON TO
13 UNDERGO STEP THERAPY, AND SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE DRUG
14 PRESCRIBED BY THE COVERED PERSON'S HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AS LONG
15 AS THE PRESCRIBED DRUG IS ON THE CARRIER'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG
16 FORMULARY, WHEN:

17 (a) THE PATIENT HAS TRIED THE STEP THERAPY-REQUIRED
18 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS WHILE UNDER HIS OR HER CURRENT OR PREVIOUS
19 HEALTH INSURANCE OR HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, AND SUCH PRESCRIPTION

1 DRUGS WERE DISCONTINUED DUE TO LACK OF EFFICACY OR
2 EFFECTIVENESS, DIMINISHED EFFECT, OR AN ADVERSE EVENT. PHARMACY
3 DRUG SAMPLES SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED TRIAL AND FAILURE OF A
4 PREFERRED PRESCRIPTION DRUG IN LIEU OF TRYING THE STEP
5 THERAPY-REQUIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUG.

6 (3) THE HEALTH CARRIER, HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, OR UTILIZATION
7 REVIEW ORGANIZATION MAY REQUEST RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION FROM
8 THE PATIENT OR PROVIDER TO SUPPORT THE OVERRIDE REQUEST.

9 (4) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE A CARRIER FROM
10 REQUIRING PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COVERAGE OF A PRESCRIBED
11 DRUG THAT WAS COVERED BY THE COVERED PERSON'S FORMER HEALTH
12 BENEFIT PLAN.

13
14 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
15 takes effect September 1, 2017; except that, if a referendum petition is
16 filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against
17 this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period
18 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,
19 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the
20 general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take
21 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the
22 governor.