

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** First engrossment

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**Subject:** Health insurance coverage of oral chemotherapy cancer drugs

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### Overview

This bill deals with copays and other enrollee cost-sharing for oral chemotherapy cancer drugs. The bill prohibits health plan companies from charging higher enrollee cost-sharing for cancer drugs taken orally (pills), as compared to more traditional cancer drugs that are infused or injected.

#### Section

**1** **Cancer chemotherapy treatment coverage.** (a) Prohibits health plan companies (insurance companies, HMOs, Blue Cross, etc.) from charging patients treated with oral cancer chemotherapy drugs higher copays and other enrollee cost-sharing than charged to patients treated with infused or injected cancer chemotherapy drugs. (Some health plan companies have what is often called a “fourth tier” of higher out-of-pockets costs that includes those oral drugs.)

(b) Prohibits a health plan company from complying with the “equal cost-sharing” requirement of paragraph (a) by increasing the cost-sharing for the infused or injected cancer chemotherapy drugs.

(c) Provides that this section does not prohibit a health plan company from requiring prior authorization or other utilization controls (other than differential enrollee cost-sharing) in approving coverage for chemotherapy.

**Effective date:** Paragraphs (a) and (c) are effective for coverage issued or renewed on or after August 1, 2010. Paragraph (b) is effective the day following final enactment.