

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2379 **DATE:** March 17, 2010
Version: Delete-everything Amendment (H2379DE2)
Authors: Ruud
Subject: Health insurance coverage of orthotics and prosthetics
Analyst: Tom Pender (651) 296-1885

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill requires that health insurance cover orthotic and prosthetic devices and specifies the extent of that coverage.

Section

1 Coverage for orthotic and prosthetic devices.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the terms prosthesis, prosthetics, orthosis, orthotics, and accredited provider, for purposes of this section.

Subd. 2. Coverage. (a) Requires health plans to cover orthotic and prosthetic devices to the same extent they are covered under Medicare Part B (non-hospital provider services), except as limited by this section. Permits coverage to be limited to the most appropriate model determined to be medically necessary. Required coverage included specified features and services related to the device, including repair, needed to restore or maintain the ability to complete normal life activities and essential job-related activities and does not include features and services related solely to comfort, convenience, or recreation.

(b) Permits coverage to be subject to the health plan's otherwise applicable enrollee cost-sharing provisions.

(c) Requires payment to providers to be the same as payment for other covered medical services between an accredited provider and a health plan or state-funded medical insurance plan.

Subd. 3. Prior authorization. Permits health plans to require prior authorization for orthotics and prostheses on the same basis as other covered benefits.

Subd. 4. Repair or replacement. Requires that the health plan cover repair or replacement if necessary to maintain the objectives listed in subdivision 2, paragraph

(a). Excludes coverage for repair or replacement needed due to the covered person's neglect, misuse, or abuse.

Subd. 5. Accredited provider. Requires that items covered under this section be provided by an accredited provider, as defined in subdivision 1 of this section, and prescribed by a physician or other type of licensed health care provider authorized under state law to prescribe orthotic and prosthetic devices and related services and supplies.

Effective date: makes the bill effective August 1, 2010, and apply to health plans issued or renewed on or after that date, to Minnesota residents.