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Overview

This bill directs the commissioner of human services, in cooperation with a working group of providers, to develop and implement a pilot program to direct patients toward effective nonpharmacologic treatments and methods of managing musculoskeletal pain. Specifies working group duties. Requires the commissioner to contract with a managed care plan to implement the pilot program beginning January 1, 2019, and to report evaluation results and recommendations to the legislature by December 15, 2020.

Section

- 1 Alternative pain management pilot program.** (a) Directs the commissioner of human services to develop and implement a pilot program to direct patients towards effective nonpharmacologic treatments and methods of managing musculoskeletal pain. Lists nonpharmacologic treatment options the commissioner may consider.
- (b) Directs the commissioner to form a working group comprised of an equal number of acupuncture practitioners, chiropractors, physical therapists, and psychologists. Directs the group to establish guidelines for nonpharmacologic pain management and specifies related criteria and procedures. Requires the group to determine a single integrative reimbursement rate appropriate for all participating providers and procedures to provide timely payment. Directs the commissioner to utilize the working group as needed to define and improve program guidelines and administration.
- (c) Requires the working group to present recommendations on guidelines to the commissioner by August 1, 2018.

Section

(d) Requires the commissioner to contract with a managed care plan to implement the pilot program beginning January 1, 2019, based on guidelines and procedures established by the working group.

(e) Requires the commissioner and managed care plan to establish specified outcome measures. Requires these measures to be reviewed by the working group before implementation.

(f) Requires the commissioner to submit an evaluation of the pilot program and recommendations on how to implement the program guidelines and procedures as the standard pain protocol used by DHS, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and human services policy and finance, by December 15, 2020.

States that the section is effective the day following final enactment.