
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Assembly Bill 660

Assembly Amendments 2 and 4

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 660

2019 Assembly Bill 660 specifies that “power seat elevation and power standing components of power wheelchairs” are included within the definition of “complex rehabilitation technology” (CRT), which is a Medical Assistance benefit category under current law. The bill also provides that the Department of Health Services (DHS) shall defer to the determination of a physician regarding the medical necessity of a CRT item or service for a complex needs patient.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 clarifies that when a complex needs patient is in need of CRT, the patient shall obtain prior authorization, as set forth in the bill and current law, but DHS must defer to the determination of a qualified health care professional regarding the medical necessity of the CRT item or service. The following providers are considered “qualified health care professionals” for this purpose: a licensed physician, physician assistant, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or chiropractor.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 4

Assembly Amendment 4 requires DHS to submit a report to the Legislature by no later than January 31, 2021 that describes all of the following regarding CRT under the Medical Assistance program: (1) the approval time for prior authorization for CRT; (2) barriers to approval; (3) the average cost of CRT items and services; and (4) common reasons for denial of requests for CRT items and services in fiscal year 2020 for both fee-for-service and managed care enrollees.

BILL HISTORY

2019 Assembly Bill 660 was introduced by Representative Thiesfeldt on December 5, 2019. Assembly Amendment 2 was offered by Representatives Thiesfeldt and Anderson on January 28, 2020, and Assembly Amendment 4 was offered by Representatives Kolste and Subeck on January 29, 2020. On January 29, 2020, the Assembly Committee on Health recommended adoption of the amendments, each on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 2. The committee then unanimously recommended passage of the bill, as amended.

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