AN ACT to create 632.873 of the statutes; relating to: fees for dental services.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill: 1) an insurer that offers a limited-scope policy that provides coverage for dental and related services may not require a dentist who provides services under the policy to provide a service to an insured under the policy at a fee set by the insurer if the service is not covered under the policy (noncovered service); 2) an administrator providing third-party administration services or a provider network for a plan that provides coverage for dental and related services may not require any dentist in the administrator’s provider network to charge set fees for noncovered services provided to enrollees of the plan; and 3) a dentist who provides services to an insured under a limited-scope policy that provides coverage for dental and related services may not charge the insured more than the dentist’s usual nondiscounted fee for a noncovered service. The bill prohibits a limited-scope policy that provides coverage for dental and related services from providing nominal or de minimis coverage for a dental or related service, making the service a covered service, for the sole purpose of avoiding the requirement under the bill that prohibits setting fees for noncovered services.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 632.873 of the statutes is created to read:
632.873 Restrictions relating to fees for dental services. (1) Definitions.

In this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) “Covered service” means, with respect to dental or related services specified in a policy or plan that provides coverage for those services, a service provided by a dentist or at the direction of a dentist to an insured under the policy or an enrollee of the plan for which the policy or plan makes payment, administered consistently with policies traditionally governing covered services, or for which the policy or plan would make payment but for the application of contractual limitations of deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, waiting periods, annual maximums, lifetime maximums applicable to the same course of treatment, frequency limitations, or alternative benefit payments.

(b) “Policy” means a policy, certificate, or contract of insurance that provides only limited-scope dental benefits.

(c) “Related service” means a service that is commonly provided, by a dentist or at the direction of a dentist, in conjunction with a dental service.

(2) Prohibitions on setting fees. (a) 1. A contract between an insurer offering a policy that provides coverage for dental and related services and a dentist for the provision of dental and related services to an insured under the policy may not require the dentist to provide a service to an insured under the policy at a fee set by the insurer unless the service is a covered service under the policy.

2. A policy that provides coverage for dental and related services may not provide nominal or de minimis coverage for a dental or related service for the sole purpose of avoiding the requirements under subd. 1.

(b) An administrator providing 3rd-party administration services or a provider network for a plan that provides coverage for dental and related services may not
require any dentist in the administrator’s provider network that is eligible to provide
services under the plan to charge set fees for dental or related services provided to
enrollees of the plan that are not covered services under the plan.

(3) **Prohibition on charges.** A dentist who, under a contract with an insurer
offering a policy that provides coverage for dental and related services, provides
dental or related services to an insured under the policy may not charge the insured
more than the dentist’s usual nondiscounted fee for a dental or related service that
is not a covered service under the policy.

**SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

(1) The treatment of section 632.873 (2) (a) 1. and (3) of the statutes first applies
to a contract between an insurer offering a limited−scope dental policy and a dentist
that is entered into, modified, or renewed on the effective date of this subsection.

(2) The treatment of section 632.873 (2) (b) of the statutes first applies to a
contract between an administrator providing 3rd−party administration services or
a provider network for a plan and a dentist that is entered into, modified, or renewed
on the effective date of this subsection.

(3) The treatment of section 632.873 (2) (a) 2. of the statutes first applies to a
limited−scope dental policy that is newly issued or renewed on the effective date of
this subsection.

**SECTION 3. Effective date.**

(1) This act takes effect on January 1, 2014.

(END)