

No. 153. An act relating to Medicaid coverage for home telemonitoring services.

(S.234)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1901g is added to read:

§ 1901g. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR HOME TELEMONTORING

SERVICES

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall provide Medicaid coverage for home telemonitoring services performed by home health agencies or other qualified providers as defined by the Agency of Human Services for Medicaid beneficiaries who have serious or chronic medical conditions that can result in frequent or recurrent hospitalizations and emergency room admissions. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the Agency shall provide coverage for home telemonitoring for one or more conditions or risk factors for which it determines, using reliable data, that home telemonitoring services are appropriate and that coverage will be budget-neutral. The Agency may expand coverage to include additional conditions or risk factors identified using evidence-based best practices if the expanded coverage will remain budget-neutral or as funds become available.

(b) A home health agency or other qualified provider shall ensure that clinical information gathered by the home health agency or other qualified provider while providing home telemonitoring services is shared with the patient's treating health care professionals. The Agency of Human Services

may impose other reasonable requirements on the use of home telemonitoring services.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) “Home health agency” means an entity that has received a certificate of need from the State to provide home health services and is certified to provide services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1395x(o).

(2) “Home telemonitoring service” means a health service that requires scheduled remote monitoring of data related to a patient’s health, in conjunction with a home health plan of care, and access to the data by a home health agency or other qualified provider as defined by the Agency of Human Services.

Sec. 2. GRANT FUNDING

The Department of Vermont Health Access and home health agencies shall seek to maximize opportunities for grant funding to offset start-up, equipment, technology, maintenance, and other costs related to home telemonitoring in order to minimize the expense to the Medicaid program.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

Date Governor signed bill: May 27, 2014