

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sen. Ann Cummings, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

FROM: Adaline Strumolo, Health Care Director, Department of Vermont Health Access

CC: Cory Gustafson, Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access

DATE: February 22, 2018

RE: S.224 An act relating to copayment limits for chiropractors

The Senate Committee on Finance requested that DVHA approximate the impact of aligning the copay for chiropractic services with the copay for primary care in qualified health plans (QHPs).

QHPs are subject to a robust certification process that involves approval by DFR, the Green Mountain Care Board, and DVHA, as well as stakeholder input throughout. Therefore, it is not possible to predict with any certainty how plan designs or premiums would be impacted by a statutory limitation on a particular copay. It is only possible to generalize that there would be some fiscal impact including upward pressure on premiums. This would be compounded by the enactment of additional cost-sharing restrictions.

With those caveats, DVHA consulted its actuaries and produced the following estimate:

- Reducing the chiropractic cost sharing to the primary care visit level is estimated to result in an increase to premium between 0.0% and 0.1%.
- The impact is lowest for the bronze plans and largest for the silver plans.
- This estimate is based on large group national data. To the extent that Vermont and/or ACA members use chiro services at a higher rate than the national average, this impact may be understated.
- This also only includes the impact of the change in cost sharing, it does not include the impact of increased utilization as a result of the reduction in cost sharing.

DVHA understands QHP issuers have provided information about utilization of chiropractic services and may be able to share other projections related to this proposal.

