

Stop H.766 from Increasing Health Care Premiums

There are many bills the Vermont Legislature is actively considering whether to move forward that, if passed, will increase health care premiums for employers and individuals. Below is a summary of the most concerning of these bills, H.766.

Summary

[H.766](#) restricts drug step therapy, limits the claims edits allowed, and requires commercial health plans to only use the same prior authorizations as VT Medicaid. This will have a significant financial impact - in the range of **5-7% increase in premiums**. These are all tools that health plans use to contain costs and ensure that members pay the appropriate amount for their medical services. This includes:

- **Step Therapy** requires patients to try therapeutically equivalent, lower-priced medications before moving to higher-cost brand drugs. Health plans need the ability to switch to lower cost alternatives as they become available in this rapidly changing environment.
- **Claims Edits** ensure accurate coding of health care claims, catch mistakes, and apply consistent industry coding standards. Severely restricting the ability of plans to utilize and apply nationally recognized coding edits will increase costs by millions of dollars.
- Require that commercial plans adopt VT Medicaid's **prior authorization policies** – including the elimination of prior authorization for advanced imaging (MRI, CT scans, etc.). Commercial payers' bills for health care services can be between five times and 15 times the price for the exact same service as VT Medicaid. Eliminating prior authorization will increase unnecessary utilization of these services and drive-up premiums.

We sponsor a health insurance plan for our employees. Our 2024 premium increase was 15%. In an effort to contain costs we switched from a Gold HDHP plan to a Silver HDHP plan which will directly impact our employees out of pocket expenses if they get sick or are injured this year.

From what I have read, H.766 will add to the burden of maintaining a health insurance plan for our employees.

We cannot continue to absorb double-digit premium increases. **Please vote NO on H.766.**

Thank you.

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