

1 H.31

2 Introduced by Representative Black of Essex

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health insurance; health care providers; claim edits; place of  
6 service; prior authorization; primary care providers

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to specify that  
8 otherwise applicable health insurance claim edit standards do not apply when a  
9 health care service is delivered outside Vermont, unless otherwise agreed to by  
10 the health insurer and the out-of-state provider. It would also modify the  
11 definition of a primary care provider for purposes of determining which health  
12 care providers' orders are exempt from prior authorization requirements.

13 An act relating to claim edit standards and prior authorization requirements

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

15 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9418a is amended to read:

16 § 9418a. PROCESSING CLAIMS, DOWNCODING, AND ADHERENCE

17 TO CODING RULES

18 \* \* \*

19 (c) Adherence to the edit standards in subsection (b) of this section is not  
20 required:



1 (c)(1)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (1), a  
2 health plan shall not impose any prior authorization requirement for any  
3 admission, item, service, treatment, or procedure ordered by a primary care  
4 provider.

5 (B) The prohibition set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision  
6 (1) shall not be construed to prohibit prior authorization requirements for  
7 prescription drugs or for an admission, item, service, treatment, or procedure  
8 that is provided out-of-network.

9 (2) As used in this subsection, “primary care provider” ~~has the same~~  
10 ~~meaning as is used by the Vermont Blueprint for Health~~ means a health care  
11 provider who is contracted and enrolled with the health plan as a primary care  
12 provider.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 (a) Sec. 1 (18 V.S.A. § 9418a) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

16 (b) Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 9418b) shall take effect on passage and shall be  
17 implemented by all health plans as soon as reasonably practicable after that  
18 date, but in no event later than January 1, 2026.

19 (c) This section shall take effect on passage.