

Hello--

I'm writing, as requested, to submit written comments on behalf of Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) on the draft rule related to the gender-affirming treatment provisions of HB 2002 (2023).

-- In section 1(b) of the rule, CAP supports the language defining "accepted standards of care" as including, "at a minimum," the World Professional Association for Transgender Health's Standards of Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Version 8.

-- In section 2, we support the language "or limit" to ensure parity in coverage of gender-affirming treatment.

-- In section 3, CAP proposes revising the draft language as follows to better ensure that providers reviewing adverse benefits determination have appropriate experience:

"Prior to issuing an adverse benefit determination that denies or limits access to gender-affirming treatment, a carrier offering a health benefit plan must have the adverse benefit determination reviewed and approved by a physical or behavioral health care provider who has at a minimum completed a GEI training course and can demonstrate experience relevant to the gender-affirming treatment."

-- Finally in section 4, we propose adding the following language (modeled off of existing network-adequacy rules) to better ensure network adequacy for gender-affirming treatment:

"An insurer electing to demonstrate compliance with network adequacy requirements required under ORS 743.505B via the factor-based approach shall include in the insurer's evidence of compliance a narrative description of how the insurer complies with section (4)(a), along with the source and methodology, where applicable. The narrative description must include, at minimum:

(a) Median enrollee wait times for gender-affirming treatment appointments for the prior calendar year; and

(b) Evidence that the network includes a full range of gender-affirming treatment providers, including primary care providers, mental healthcare providers, endocrinologists, and surgeons providing gender-affirming treatment."

Thank you for your consideration!

JF



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