

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 30, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 576

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Boerner Horvath, Pellerin, and Wilson)
(Coauthor: Senator Ashby)

February 8, 2023

An act to add Section 14131.07 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 576, as amended, Weber. Medi-Cal: reimbursement for abortion.

Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid program provisions. Existing law provides that abortion is a covered benefit under Medi-Cal. Existing regulation authorizes reimbursement for specified medications used to terminate a pregnancy through the 70th day from the first day of the recipient's last menstrual period.

~~This bill would require the department to fully reimburse providers for the provision of medication to terminate a pregnancy that aligns with clinical guidelines, evidence-based research, and the discretion of the provider.~~

This bill would require the department, by March 1, 2024, to review and update Medi-Cal coverage policies for medication abortion to align with current evidence-based clinical guidelines. After the initial review, the bill would require the department to update its Medi-Cal coverage

policies for medication abortion as needed to align with evidence-based clinical guidelines.

The bill would require the department to allow flexibility for providers to exercise their clinical judgment when services are performed in a manner that aligns with one or more evidence-based clinical guidelines.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14131.07 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 14131.07. (a) (1) By March 1, 2024, the department shall
4 review and update Medi-Cal coverage policies for medication
5 abortion to align with current evidence-based clinical guidelines.

6 (2) After the initial review, the department shall update its
7 Medi-Cal coverage policies for medication abortion as needed to
8 align with evidence-based clinical guidelines.

9 (b) For purposes of subdivision (a), the department shall allow
10 flexibility for providers to exercise their clinical judgment when
11 services are performed in a manner that aligns with one or more
12 evidence-based clinical guidelines.

13 ~~SECTION 1. Section 14131.07 is added to the Welfare and~~
14 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~

15 ~~14131.07. The department shall fully reimburse providers for~~
16 ~~the provision of medication to terminate a pregnancy that aligns~~
17 ~~with clinical guidelines, evidence-based research, and the discretion~~
18 ~~of the provider.~~

19
20 _____

21 REVISIONS:

22 Heading—Lines 2 and 3.

23 _____

O