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

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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:

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

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

- (2) After the initial review, the department shall update its Medi-Cal coverage policies for medication abortion as needed to align with evidence-based clinical guidelines.
- (b) For purposes of subdivision (a), the department shall 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.

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

14131.07. The department shall 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.

19 20 21 **REVISIONS:** 22 Heading—Lines 2 and 3.