

**NORTH CAROLINA
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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OVERVIEW

- 2023 Legislative Session
- Redistricting



MEDICAID EXPANSION

- HB 76 – Access to Healthcare Option
- Coverage expansion for adults making up to 138% of the federal poverty line.
- Hospital Assessment Payments (HASP)
- Certificate of Need
 - Eliminates CON for certain mental health facilities and beds
 - In counties with more than 125,000, CON ambulatory surgery centers and MRIs will be phased out as follows:
 - ❖ ASC: two years after first HASP payment
 - ❖ MRI: three years after first HASP payment
- No SAVE Act included in legislation
- Medicaid expansion date tied to enactment of State budget (likely October 1, 2023).

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REFORM

- HB 649 – Ensure Timely and Clinically Sound Utilization Reviews
 - Sponsored by Rep. Kristin Baker, M.D. and Rep. Tim Reeder, M.D.
 - Sets time limits for utilization reviews based on medical care level and provides timeframes in which insurers must make decisions based on the urgency of the need for treatment.
- “Gold card” standard modeled after Texas.
- Health plan opposition blocking consideration by Senate.
- Broad support from NCOA, physician groups, hospitals, PhARMA, and patient groups.
- Seeking media engagement.

PBM REGULATION

- HB 246 passed North Carolina House
 - Rep. Sasser
- Strong opposition from health plans.
- No Senate action.

BCBSNC BILL

- HB 346 - Reorganization & Economic Development Act
 - This legislation will allow BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina to restructure its corporate model by creating a new nonprofit holding company that will serve as the parent company of the State's largest insurance company.
 - ❖ Allows significant funds to go to for-profit venture → likely vertical integration.
 - Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey strongly opposed the bill because he believed HB 346 would drive up insurance premiums for North Carolinians.
 - Passed by Legislature and signed by Governor Cooper.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE APRN LEGISLATION

- The SAVE Act
 - HB 218/SB 175
- BCBSNC Support
- SAVE Act Included in Senate Medicaid Proposal
- Opposed by House leadership



NC PATIENT SAFETY COALITION

- The NCOA, along with NCMS and other specialties, formed a new entity that engaged in communication efforts on scope of practice.
 - Website
 - Blog posts
 - Social media
 - Grassroots communications (texts)
 - Paid media (digital ads)

NC Patient Safety Coalition



Study Proves Physician-Led Medical Care Is The Most Effective & Efficient

February 6, 2023

Physician-led care reduces cost and leads to better health outcomes. That's the conclusion of a recent study of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) emergency departments.

The federal [study](#) states, “compared to physicians, NPs [nurse practitioners] use more medical resources: They require longer lengths of stay and incur higher costs. However, they achieve less favorable patient outcomes, as measured by 30-day preventable hospitalizations.”



NC Patient Safety Coalition

**Don't eliminate
physician
involvement
in patient care.**

Oppose the SAVE Act



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LEGISLATION

- Physician Assistant-Team Based Practice
 - HB 75 (Passed House and Senate)
 - Conference Committee
- Viewed by NCMS as a possible model for APRN compromise.
 - Only lessens supervision if practicing in “team-based” setting.

CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIVES

- SB 20, legislation regarding abortion restrictions, includes scope of practice expansion for certified nurse midwives (CNMs).
 - Eliminates MD supervision of CNMs with 4,000 hours of experience
 - Limited to “low risk” home births
 - Vicarious liability protection for physicians
- The CNM language is endorsed by the NC OBGYN Society and is not the same CNM language included in the SAVE Act.
 - Key for House leaders – only support scope changes with consensus (Physician Assistants, CNM)
- This legislation does not change the supervision requirements for nurse practitioners or nurse anesthetists.

REDISTRICTING

- New NC Supreme Court reverses redistricting ruling in January.
- Rulings will affect North Carolina's upcoming elections.
 - General Assembly expected to redraw congressional and legislative maps prior to filing for 2024 elections (slated to begin in December).

Questions???





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