



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 331**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING STEP THERAPY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS COVERED UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM AND REQUIRED NOTICE TO ENROLLEES OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG PAYMENT SUSPENSIONS, DENIALS OR IMPOSITION OF NEW REQUIREMENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17b-274f of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (b) The duration of any step therapy program requirement [shall] for  
5 Medicaid coverage of a prescription drug may follow evidence-based  
6 guidelines issued by the manufacturer of the prescription drug and the  
7 federal Food and Drug Administration. If no such guidelines exist, step  
8 therapy may not be longer than a period of thirty days, after which time  
9 the prescribing practitioner may deem such treatment as clinically  
10 ineffective for the patient. When the prescribing practitioner deems the  
11 treatment to be clinically ineffective, the drug prescribed and  
12 recommended by the practitioner shall be dispensed and covered under  
13 the Medicaid program.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Social  
15 Services, or any entity under contract with the department to administer  
16 pharmacy benefits, shall provide the following notice to a HUSKY

17 Health plan enrollee affected by a decision by the department to deny  
18 or suspend payment for a prescription drug or institute new step  
19 therapy or prior authorization requirements:

20 (1) For prescription payment requests submitted electronically by a  
21 pharmacy and denied for any reason, an individualized written notice  
22 (A) at the pharmacy at the time of the denial, or (B) through United  
23 States mail not later than twenty-four business hours after the time of  
24 the denial;

25 (2) For a planned electronic suspension or termination of payment for  
26 a prescribed prescription drug, written notice by United States mail not  
27 later than ten days before such suspension or termination; and

28 (3) In the event of new prior authorization or step therapy  
29 requirements for a prescription drug prescribed to a HUSKY Health  
30 plan enrollee, written notice by United States mail at the same time that  
31 the department electronically informs prescribers of any such  
32 requirements or sixty days before the new requirements are  
33 implemented, whichever is earlier. Such notice shall include  
34 information in plain language about (A) the new requirements, (B) how  
35 to comply with such requirements, and (C) the importance of talking to  
36 the prescriber of such prescription drug about alternative prescription  
37 drugs that may be available.

38 (b) Notices sent pursuant to this section shall contain information on  
39 any due process or appeal rights a HUSKY Health plan enrollee has  
40 under federal and state laws and regulations, including, but not limited  
41 to, as applicable, the provisions of 42 CFR 431.206, 42 CFR 431. 210 and  
42 42 CFR 431.211.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-274f(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Sections 2 to 4, inclusive, were consolidated into Section 2 and redrafted for clarity.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*