

ASSEMBLY, No. 2024

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 1996

By Assemblywomen ALLEN and VANDERVALK

1 AN ACT establishing the Medicaid Asthma Education Pilot Project.

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3 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
4 *of New Jersey:*

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6 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Medicaid  
7 Asthma Education Pilot Project."

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9 2. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the  
10 Medicaid Asthma Education Pilot Project in the Division of Medical  
11 Assistance and Health Services in the Department of Human Services,  
12 in consultation with the New Jersey Pharmacists Association and an  
13 accredited college of pharmacy and science. The purpose of the pilot  
14 project is to significantly improve the quality of life and ability to work  
15 for Medicaid recipients with moderate to severe asthma by testing the  
16 efficacy of a health care delivery and provider reimbursement model  
17 which should increase quality of care and reduce health care costs by  
18 ensuring continuity of care through enhanced linkages between  
19 primary care physicians and pharmacists and preventing excessive  
20 utilization of health care services.

21 b. The pilot project shall utilize the services of specially trained  
22 pharmacists to care for Medicaid recipients with moderate to severe  
23 asthma who are enrolled in a health maintenance organization and who  
24 are identified by their health maintenance organization as high users of  
25 health care resources.

26 c. A pharmacist participating in the pilot project, working in  
27 conjunction with a participating patient's primary care physician, shall  
28 provide asthma education intervention services to each participating  
29 patient in accordance with the following phases of care, which shall be  
30 documented by the pharmacist in the patient's record:

31 (1) Clarify the patient's diagnosis and treatment goals with the  
32 patient's primary care physician; assess the patient's medical history,  
33 understanding of the disease, barriers to treatment and ability to use  
34 asthma-associated devices; and perform a patient regimen review;

35 (2) Develop an educational care plan for the patient, including the  
36 establishment of a health-related behavioral contract with the patient  
37 which includes measurable goals that the patient agrees to achieve, and

1 schedule follow-up visits as necessary which complement the primary  
2 care physician's treatment schedule and plan; and

3 (3) Review the patient contract; review and assess the patient's use  
4 of asthma-associated devices and correct as necessary; review and  
5 adjust the education care plan for the patient as necessary; review and  
6 adjust the treatment plan for the patient as necessary, in consultation  
7 with the primary care physician; and assess patient adherence to the  
8 health-related behavioral contract and revise the contract as necessary.

9 d. The commissioner shall provide for appropriate rates of  
10 reimbursement to participating pharmacists for education intervention  
11 services provided to patients under the pilot project.

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13 3. The Commissioner of Human Services shall obtain such waivers  
14 from the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services as  
15 may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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17 4. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report to the  
18 Governor and the Legislature no later than 24 months after the  
19 implementation of the pilot project on its success in meeting its  
20 objectives and shall present such recommendations as the  
21 commissioner wishes to make for legislative or administrative action  
22 as a follow-up to this pilot project.

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24 5. This act shall take effect on the 120th day after the date of  
25 enactment, subject to federal approval, except that the Commissioner  
26 of Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in  
27 advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of the act, and  
28 shall expire upon the submission of the report required pursuant to  
29 section 4 of this act.

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## STATEMENT

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34 This bill establishes the Medicaid asthma education pilot project to  
35 provide education intervention services to Medicaid recipients with  
36 moderate to severe asthma through specially trained pharmacists  
37 working in concert with a patient's primary care physician. The  
38 Medicaid recipients shall be enrolled in health maintenance  
39 organizations and shall have been identified as high users of health  
40 care services.

41 This pilot project is intended to create a model for future  
42 reimbursement for health care services that are shown to reduce costs  
43 and deliver quality care, and will test the assumption that self-care for  
44 asthma (and by implication other chronic diseases) is the best approach  
45 to providing care. A successful project of this kind could lead to  
46 expanded funding for asthma education throughout the country and lay

1 the groundwork for other pilot projects that address high-cost chronic  
2 diseases.

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7 "Medicaid Asthma Education Pilot Project Act".