

ASSEMBLY, No. 2905

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 1997

By Assemblyman CORODEMUS

1 AN ACT concerning podiatry and supplementing Title 26 of the  
2 Revised Statutes and P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.).

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

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7 1. Notwithstanding any provision of a health maintenance  
8 organization contract for health care services, hereafter delivered or  
9 issued for delivery in this State, whenever the contract includes  
10 coverage for routine foot care, coverage shall be deemed to include  
11 routine foot care services provided by a podiatric physician when the  
12 podiatric physician performs an eligible service within the scope of his  
13 practice.

14 For the purposes of this section, "routine foot care" means the  
15 treatment or removal of asymptomatic corns, asymptomatic calluses  
16 or toenails. Services performed shall be deemed medically necessary  
17 for asymptomatic corns, asymptomatic calluses and toenails in the  
18 presence of metabolic or peripheral vascular diseases, and  
19 symptomatic conditions of the foot. Routine foot care does not  
20 include orthopedic shoes, foot orthotics or supportive devices for the  
21 foot or any other durable medical equipment.

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23 2. Notwithstanding any provision of a health benefits plan,  
24 hereafter delivered or issued for delivery in this State, whenever the  
25 plan includes coverage for routine foot care, coverage shall be deemed  
26 to include routine foot care services provided by a podiatric physician  
27 when the podiatric physician performs an eligible service within the  
28 scope of his practice.

29 For the purposes of this section, "routine foot care" means the  
30 treatment or removal of asymptomatic corns, asymptomatic calluses  
31 or toenails. Services performed shall be deemed medically necessary  
32 for asymptomatic corns, asymptomatic calluses and toenails in the  
33 presence of metabolic or peripheral vascular diseases, and  
34 symptomatic conditions of the foot. Routine foot care does not  
35 include orthopedic shoes, foot orthotics or supportive devices for the  
36 foot or any other durable medical equipment.

1       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6       This bill requires health maintenance organizations and small  
7 employer health benefits plans that provide coverage for routine foot  
8 care, to permit the foot care to be provided by a podiatric physician.

9       The bill defines "routine foot care" as the treatment or removal of  
10 asymptomatic corns, asymptomatic calluses or toenails. Services  
11 performed shall be deemed medically necessary for asymptomatic  
12 corns, asymptomatic calluses and toenails in the presence of metabolic  
13 or peripheral vascular diseases, and symptomatic conditions of the  
14 foot. Routine foot care does not include orthopedic shoes, foot  
15 orthotics or supportive devices for the foot or any other durable  
16 medical equipment.

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21       Requires HMOs and small employer health benefits plans that cover  
22 routine foot care to permit podiatric physicians to provide such  
23 services.