

SB175 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AMENDMENTS (Kwan, Karen)

Anticipated Fiscal Impact: none
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This bill would expand which providers were allowed to diagnose and treat autism disorder to include an advance practice registered nurse, a clinical social worker, a marriage and family therapist, a physician's assistant and a mental health counselor in addition to physicians and mental health therapists. PEHP would not expect an increase in costs to the state employee health plan because, unlike some health insurers, PEHP allows most Utah providers to contract with PEHP for services within the scope of their license. By allowing additional providers to diagnose autism, the bill would allow a member more choice rather than increasing demand. Further, PEHP has tools as a health plan to control per unit costs and utilization, establishing clinical policies for medical necessity, requiring documentation to prove the diagnosis or medical need, tracking provider practices, and maintaining provider contracts. Because PEHP can maintain such cost controls, PEHP would not expect that expanding the number of providers who could diagnose and treat autism would increase plan costs.