

February 18, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen
Representative Michele Meyer
Committee On Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 67 - An Act to Establish Minimum Standards for Certain Urgent Care Facilities

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the HHS Committee:

On behalf of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, a Point32Health company, I am writing in regard to LD 67 - An Act to Establish Minimum Standards for Certain Urgent Care Facilities. Harvard Pilgrim is a leading not-for-profit health and well-being organization that currently serves approximately 50,000 Maine fully insured commercial members. We are committed to providing high-quality and affordable health care, improving the health and wellness of our members, and creating healthier communities across the country.

LD 67 provides a definition of urgent care facility and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to create licensing standards for urgent care facilities. While Harvard Pilgrim takes no position on the bill, we would like to offer suggested edits to the definition of "urgent care facility":

1. Definition "Urgent care facility" means a health care facility that is not otherwise licensed with a primary purpose of providing medical evaluation and care on a walk-in basis for non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses that require prompt attention but are not severe enough to warrant a visit to the emergency room. As used in this chapter, "urgent care facility" does not include:

- A. A facility that is licensed as part of a hospital;
- B. A facility that provides services or accommodations for patients who stay overnight;
- C. The private office of a physician, or dentist, or other licensed provider in individual or group practice for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment.

The marketing of urgent care facilities can be confusing for consumers. Some hospitals operate urgent care centers or walk-in care and contract as such with insurers. However, others choose not to contract as urgent care and bill under their existing facility rate structure. This can be confusing and frustrating for consumers when they realize they have been charged hospital rates. The minor tweaks to the definition of "urgent care facility" above will help consumers understand whether they are seeking care at a hospital versus an urgent care facility, thus better understanding their cost share responsibilities.

Harvard Pilgrim appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on LD 67. Should you have any questions, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Stefani Reardon
Senior Government Affairs Manager
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Stefani.Reardon@point32health.org
(781) 612-4745