

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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March 16, 2021

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair  
Representative Michelle Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 590 – *An Act To Require MaineCare Coverage for Ostomy Equipment*

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter is to provide information on LD 590, *An Act To Require MaineCare Coverage for Ostomy Equipment*. This bill requires the MaineCare program to reimburse for ostomy equipment and supplies without prior authorization or limitation when recommended or prescribed by a physician. The reimbursement rate must be no less than the cost of the equipment.

MaineCare does not require a prior authorization (PA) for ostomy supplies; however, there is a ninety-day limit on those supplies. A request for supplies beyond ninety days would require a prior authorization, but those requests are infrequent. During calendar year 2020, no PAs were requested for ostomy supplies beyond ninety days. The Department currently reimburses for these products at 85% of the 2011 Medicare Rate.

The Department is also unsure of the mechanism we would be expected to use to reimburse for these products at no less than provider cost. Further, reimbursing based on cost removes any incentive for providers to find cost efficiencies.

We wanted you to be aware of the above information as you consider this bill going forward. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Probert'.

Michelle Probert  
Director, MaineCare Services