

Introduced by

Representative Keiser

Senators Anderson, Klein

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact section 65-05-40 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to duration limits for opioid therapy, benzodiazepine, and muscle relaxants; and to
3 provide for application.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 65-05-40 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as
6 follows:

7 **65-05-40. Opioid therapy, benzodiazepine, and muscle relaxant duration limits -**
8 **Termination of coverage.**

9 1. The organization may not pay for opioid therapy that exceeds ninety morphine
10 milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day, or more than a seven-day supply of
11 an opioid medication within any single outpatient transaction during the initial thirty-day
12 period of opioid therapy.

13 a. The limitations do not apply to:

14 (1) Opioid therapy prescribed for active and aftercare cancer treatment;

15 (2) End-of-life and hospice care;

16 (3) Treatment for substance use disorder;

17 (4) An emergency room setting;

18 (5) An inpatient hospital setting;

19 (6) A long-term care facility setting; or

20 (7) An assisted living facility setting.

21 b. Opioid therapy includes medications listed in subsections 3 and 4 of section

22 19-03.1-07, subsection 6 of section 19-03.1-09, subsection 3 of section

23 19-03.1-11, subsections 3 and 4 of section 19-03.1-13, or any substance with

24 similar properties or affects.

- 1 2. The organization may not pay for benzodiazepine therapy beyond a cumulative
2 duration of four weeks, except when approved by the organization for the treatment of
3 an anxiety disorder. Benzodiazepine therapy includes medications contained in
4 subdivisions a, i, j, k, l, p, r, v, x, ee, mm, qq, xx, yy, aaa, and ccc of subsection 4 of
5 section 19-03.1-11, or any substance with similar properties or affects.
- 6 3. The organization may not pay for muscle relaxant therapy beyond a cumulative
7 duration of four weeks, except when approved by the organization for spasticity due to
8 a spinal cord injury.
- 9 4. A review of requests to depart from the established limits in subsections 1, 2, and 3,
10 upon a showing of medical necessity, are dispute resolution decisions under section
11 65-02-20.

12 **SECTION 2. APPLICATION.** An injured employee receiving any therapy exceeding the
13 therapy limits in section 1 of this Act on the effective date of this Act must be in compliance with
14 the limits by July 1, 2020, at which time the organization shall terminate coverage for any
15 therapy exceeding the limits.