

1 AN ACT relating to coverage for scalp cooling systems used in connection with
2 chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔ SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 17A OF KRS CHAPTER 304
5 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) "Health plan":

8 1. Means any health insurance policy, certificate, contract, or plan that
9 offers or provides coverage in this state for chemotherapy treatment
10 for breast cancer:

11 a. By direct payment, reimbursement, or otherwise; and

12 b. On a fully insured or self-insured basis or any combination
13 thereof; and

14 2. Includes a health benefit plan; and

15 (b) "Scalp cooling system" means any device used to cool the scalp to prevent
16 or reduce hair loss during chemotherapy treatment.

17 (2) To the extent permitted by federal law, a health plan shall provide coverage for
18 scalp cooling systems used in connection with chemotherapy treatment for breast
19 cancer.

20 (3) If the application of any requirement of this section to a qualified health plan, as
21 defined in 42 U.S.C. sec. 18021(a)(1), as amended, results or would result in a
22 determination that the state must make payments to defray the cost of the
23 requirement under 42 U.S.C. sec. 18031(d)(3) and 45 C.F.R. sec. 155.170, as
24 amended, then the requirement shall not apply to the qualified health plan until
25 the requirement to make cost defrayment payments is no longer applicable.

26 ➔ Section 2. KRS 304.17A-099 is amended to read as follows:

27 (1) As used in this section, "qualified health plan" has the same meaning as in 42

1 U.S.C. sec. 18021(a)(1), as amended.

2 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter:

3 (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, if the application of a
4 provision of this chapter results, or would result, in a determination that the
5 state must make payments to defray the cost of the provision under 42 U.S.C.
6 sec. 18031(d)(3) and 45 C.F.R. sec. 155.170, as amended, then the provision
7 shall not apply to a qualified health plan or any other health insurance policy,
8 certificate, plan, or contract until the requirement to make cost defrayment
9 payments is no longer applicable; and

10 (b) This subsection shall not apply to any of the following:

11 1. A provision of this chapter that became effective on or before January 1,
12 2024; or

13 2. Section 1 of this Act.

14 (3) To the extent permitted by federal law, if the state is required under 42 U.S.C. sec.
15 18031(d)(3) and 45 C.F.R. sec. 155.170, as amended, to make payments to defray
16 the cost of a provision of this chapter:

17 (a) 1. Each qualified health plan issuer shall determine, and provide to the
18 commissioner, the cost attributable to the provision for the qualified
19 health plan.

20 2. The cost attributable to a provision for a qualified health plan under
21 subparagraph 1. of this paragraph shall be:

22 a. Calculated in accordance with generally accepted actuarial
23 principles and methodologies;

24 b. Conducted by a member of the American Academy of Actuaries;
25 and

26 c. Reported by the qualified health plan issuer to:

27 i. The commissioner; and

1 The following shall apply to limited health service benefit plans, including any limited
2 health service contract, as defined in KRS 304.38A-010:

3 (1) KRS 304.17A-129;

4 (2) KRS 304.17A-262; ~~and~~

5 (3) KRS 304.17A-591 to 304.17A-599; **and**

6 **(4) Section 1 of this Act.**

7 ➔Section 4. KRS 164.2871 is amended to read as follows:

8 (1) The governing board of each state postsecondary educational institution is
9 authorized to purchase liability insurance for the protection of the individual
10 members of the governing board, faculty, and staff of such institutions from liability
11 for acts and omissions committed in the course and scope of the individual's
12 employment or service. Each institution may purchase the type and amount of
13 liability coverage deemed to best serve the interest of such institution.

14 (2) All retirement annuity allowances accrued or accruing to any employee of a state
15 postsecondary educational institution through a retirement program sponsored by
16 the state postsecondary educational institution are hereby exempt from any state,
17 county, or municipal tax, and shall not be subject to execution, attachment,
18 garnishment, or any other process whatsoever, nor shall any assignment thereof be
19 enforceable in any court. Except retirement benefits accrued or accruing to any
20 employee of a state postsecondary educational institution through a retirement
21 program sponsored by the state postsecondary educational institution on or after
22 January 1, 1998, shall be subject to the tax imposed by KRS 141.020, to the extent
23 provided in KRS 141.010 and 141.0215.

24 (3) Except as provided in KRS Chapter 44, the purchase of liability insurance for
25 members of governing boards, faculty and staff of institutions of higher education
26 in this state shall not be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity or any
27 other immunity or privilege.

- 1 (4) The governing board of each state postsecondary education institution is authorized
2 to provide a self-insured employer group health plan to its employees, which plan
3 shall:
 - 4 (a) Conform to the requirements of Subtitle 32 of KRS Chapter 304; and
 - 5 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, be exempt from
6 conformity with Subtitle 17A of KRS Chapter 304.
- 7 (5) A self-insured employer group health plan provided by the governing board of a
8 state postsecondary education institution to its employees shall comply with:
 - 9 (a) KRS 304.17A-129;
 - 10 (b) KRS 304.17A-133;
 - 11 (c) KRS 304.17A-145;
 - 12 (d) KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631;
 - 13 (e) KRS 304.17A-261;
 - 14 (f) KRS 304.17A-262;
 - 15 (g) KRS 304.17A-264;[and]
 - 16 (h) KRS 304.17A-265; **and**
- 17 (i) **Section 1 of this Act.**
- 18 (6) (a) A self-insured employer group health plan provided by the governing board of
19 a state postsecondary education institution to its employees shall provide a
20 special enrollment period to pregnant women who are eligible for coverage in
21 accordance with the requirements set forth in KRS 304.17-182.
- 22 (b) The governing board of a state postsecondary education institution shall, at or
23 before the time an employee is initially offered the opportunity to enroll in the
24 plan or coverage, provide the employee a notice of the special enrollment
25 rights under this subsection.

26 ➔Section 5. KRS 18A.225 is amended to read as follows:

27 (1) (a) The term "employee" for purposes of this section means:

- 1 1. Any person, including an elected public official, who is regularly
2 employed by any department, office, board, agency, or branch of state
3 government; or by a public postsecondary educational institution; or by
4 any city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local
5 government, whose legislative body has opted to participate in the state-
6 sponsored health insurance program pursuant to KRS 79.080; and who
7 is either a contributing member to any one (1) of the retirement systems
8 administered by the state, including but not limited to the Kentucky
9 Retirement Systems, County Employees Retirement System, Kentucky
10 Teachers' Retirement System, the Legislators' Retirement Plan, or the
11 Judicial Retirement Plan; or is receiving a contractual contribution from
12 the state toward a retirement plan; or, in the case of a public
13 postsecondary education institution, is an individual participating in an
14 optional retirement plan authorized by KRS 161.567; or is eligible to
15 participate in a retirement plan established by an employer who ceases
16 participating in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System pursuant to
17 KRS 61.522 whose employees participated in the health insurance plans
18 administered by the Personnel Cabinet prior to the employer's effective
19 cessation date in the Kentucky Employees Retirement System;
- 20 2. Any certified or classified employee of a local board of education or a
21 public charter school as defined in KRS 160.1590;
- 22 3. Any elected member of a local board of education;
- 23 4. Any person who is a present or future recipient of a retirement
24 allowance from the Kentucky Retirement Systems, County Employees
25 Retirement System, Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, the
26 Legislators' Retirement Plan, the Judicial Retirement Plan, or the
27 Kentucky Community and Technical College System's optional

retirement plan authorized by KRS 161.567, except that a person who is receiving a retirement allowance and who is age sixty-five (65) or older shall not be included, with the exception of persons covered under KRS 61.702(2)(b)3. and 78.5536(2)(b)3., unless he or she is actively employed pursuant to subparagraph 1. of this paragraph; and

5. Any eligible dependents and beneficiaries of participating employees and retirees who are entitled to participate in the state-sponsored health insurance program;

9 (b) The term "health benefit plan" for the purposes of this section means a health
10 benefit plan as defined in KRS 304.17A-005;

13 (d) The term "managed care plan" for the purposes of this section means a
14 managed care plan as defined in KRS 304.17A-500.

15 (2) (a) The secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, upon the
16 recommendation of the secretary of the Personnel Cabinet, shall procure, in
17 compliance with the provisions of KRS 45A.080, 45A.085, and 45A.090,
18 from one (1) or more insurers authorized to do business in this state, a group
19 health benefit plan that may include but not be limited to health maintenance
20 organization (HMO), preferred provider organization (PPO), point of service
21 (POS), and exclusive provider organization (EPO) benefit plans
22 encompassing all or any class or classes of employees. With the exception of
23 employers governed by the provisions of KRS Chapters 16, 18A, and 151B,
24 all employers of any class of employees or former employees shall enter into
25 a contract with the Personnel Cabinet prior to including that group in the state
26 health insurance group. The contracts shall include but not be limited to
27 designating the entity responsible for filing any federal forms, adoption of

1 policies required for proper plan administration, acceptance of the contractual
2 provisions with health insurance carriers or third-party administrators, and
3 adoption of the payment and reimbursement methods necessary for efficient
4 administration of the health insurance program. Health insurance coverage
5 provided to state employees under this section shall, at a minimum, contain
6 the same benefits as provided under Kentucky Kare Standard as of January 1,
7 1994, and shall include a mail-order drug option as provided in subsection
8 (13) of this section. All employees and other persons for whom the health care
9 coverage is provided or made available shall annually be given an option to
10 elect health care coverage through a self-funded plan offered by the
11 Commonwealth or, if a self-funded plan is not available, from a list of
12 coverage options determined by the competitive bid process under the
13 provisions of KRS 45A.080, 45A.085, and 45A.090 and made available
14 during annual open enrollment.

15 (b) The policy or policies shall be approved by the commissioner of insurance
16 and may contain the provisions the commissioner of insurance approves,
17 whether or not otherwise permitted by the insurance laws.

18 (c) Any carrier bidding to offer health care coverage to employees shall agree to
19 provide coverage to all members of the state group, including active
20 employees and retirees and their eligible covered dependents and
21 beneficiaries, within the county or counties specified in its bid. Except as
22 provided in subsection (20) of this section, any carrier bidding to offer health
23 care coverage to employees shall also agree to rate all employees as a single
24 entity, except for those retirees whose former employers insure their active
25 employees outside the state-sponsored health insurance program and as
26 otherwise provided in KRS 61.702(2)(b)3.b. and 78.5536(2)(b)3.b.

27 (d) Any carrier bidding to offer health care coverage to employees shall agree to

1 provide enrollment, claims, and utilization data to the Commonwealth in a
2 format specified by the Personnel Cabinet with the understanding that the data
3 shall be owned by the Commonwealth; to provide data in an electronic form
4 and within a time frame specified by the Personnel Cabinet; and to be subject
5 to penalties for noncompliance with data reporting requirements as specified
6 by the Personnel Cabinet. The Personnel Cabinet shall take strict precautions
7 to protect the confidentiality of each individual employee; however,
8 confidentiality assertions shall not relieve a carrier from the requirement of
9 providing stipulated data to the Commonwealth.

10 (e) The Personnel Cabinet shall develop the necessary techniques and capabilities
11 for timely analysis of data received from carriers and, to the extent possible,
12 provide in the request-for-proposal specifics relating to data requirements,
13 electronic reporting, and penalties for noncompliance. The Commonwealth
14 shall own the enrollment, claims, and utilization data provided by each carrier
15 and shall develop methods to protect the confidentiality of the individual. The
16 Personnel Cabinet shall include in the October annual report submitted
17 pursuant to the provisions of KRS 18A.226 to the Governor, the General
18 Assembly, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, an analysis of the
19 financial stability of the program, which shall include but not be limited to
20 loss ratios, methods of risk adjustment, measurements of carrier quality of
21 service, prescription coverage and cost management, and statutorily required
22 mandates. If state self-insurance was available as a carrier option, the report
23 also shall provide a detailed financial analysis of the self-insurance fund
24 including but not limited to loss ratios, reserves, and reinsurance agreements.

25 (f) If any agency participating in the state-sponsored employee health insurance
26 program for its active employees terminates participation and there is a state
27 appropriation for the employer's contribution for active employees' health

1 insurance coverage, then neither the agency nor the employees shall receive
2 the state-funded contribution after termination from the state-sponsored
3 employee health insurance program.

4 (g) Any funds in flexible spending accounts that remain after all reimbursements
5 have been processed shall be transferred to the credit of the state-sponsored
6 health insurance plan's appropriation account.

7 (h) Each entity participating in the state-sponsored health insurance program shall
8 provide an amount at least equal to the state contribution rate for the employer
9 portion of the health insurance premium. For any participating entity that used
10 the state payroll system, the employer contribution amount shall be equal to
11 but not greater than the state contribution rate.

12 (3) The premiums may be paid by the policyholder:

13 (a) Wholly from funds contributed by the employee, by payroll deduction or
14 otherwise;

15 (b) Wholly from funds contributed by any department, board, agency, public
16 postsecondary education institution, or branch of state, city, urban-county,
17 charter county, county, or consolidated local government; or

18 (c) Partly from each, except that any premium due for health care coverage or
19 dental coverage, if any, in excess of the premium amount contributed by any
20 department, board, agency, postsecondary education institution, or branch of
21 state, city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local
22 government for any other health care coverage shall be paid by the employee.

23 (4) If an employee moves his or her place of residence or employment out of the
24 service area of an insurer offering a managed health care plan, under which he or
25 she has elected coverage, into either the service area of another managed health care
26 plan or into an area of the Commonwealth not within a managed health care plan
27 service area, the employee shall be given an option, at the time of the move or

1 transfer, to change his or her coverage to another health benefit plan.

2 (5) No payment of premium by any department, board, agency, public postsecondary
3 educational institution, or branch of state, city, urban-county, charter county,
4 county, or consolidated local government shall constitute compensation to an
5 insured employee for the purposes of any statute fixing or limiting the
6 compensation of such an employee. Any premium or other expense incurred by any
7 department, board, agency, public postsecondary educational institution, or branch
8 of state, city, urban-county, charter county, county, or consolidated local
9 government shall be considered a proper cost of administration.

10 (6) The policy or policies may contain the provisions with respect to the class or classes
11 of employees covered, amounts of insurance or coverage for designated classes or
12 groups of employees, policy options, terms of eligibility, and continuation of
13 insurance or coverage after retirement.

14 (7) Group rates under this section shall be made available to the disabled child of an
15 employee regardless of the child's age if the entire premium for the disabled child's
16 coverage is paid by the state employee. A child shall be considered disabled if he or
17 she has been determined to be eligible for federal Social Security disability benefits.

18 (8) The health care contract or contracts for employees shall be entered into for a
19 period of not less than one (1) year.

20 (9) The secretary shall appoint thirty-two (32) persons to an Advisory Committee of
21 State Health Insurance Subscribers to advise the secretary or the secretary's
22 designee regarding the state-sponsored health insurance program for employees.
23 The secretary shall appoint, from a list of names submitted by appointing
24 authorities, members representing school districts from each of the seven (7)
25 Supreme Court districts, members representing state government from each of the
26 seven (7) Supreme Court districts, two (2) members representing retirees under age
27 sixty-five (65), one (1) member representing local health departments, two (2)

1 members representing the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, and three (3)
2 members at large. The secretary shall also appoint two (2) members from a list of
3 five (5) names submitted by the Kentucky Education Association, two (2) members
4 from a list of five (5) names submitted by the largest state employee organization of
5 nonschool state employees, two (2) members from a list of five (5) names submitted
6 by the Kentucky Association of Counties, two (2) members from a list of five (5)
7 names submitted by the Kentucky League of Cities, and two (2) members from a
8 list of names consisting of five (5) names submitted by each state employee
9 organization that has two thousand (2,000) or more members on state payroll
10 deduction. The advisory committee shall be appointed in January of each year and
11 shall meet quarterly.

12 (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the policy or policies
13 provided to employees pursuant to this section shall not provide coverage for
14 obtaining or performing an abortion, nor shall any state funds be used for the
15 purpose of obtaining or performing an abortion on behalf of employees or their
16 dependents.

17 (11) Interruption of an established treatment regime with maintenance drugs shall be
18 grounds for an insured to appeal a formulary change through the established appeal
19 procedures approved by the Department of Insurance, if the physician supervising
20 the treatment certifies that the change is not in the best interests of the patient.

21 (12) Any employee who is eligible for and elects to participate in the state health
22 insurance program as a retiree, or the spouse or beneficiary of a retiree, under any
23 one (1) of the state-sponsored retirement systems shall not be eligible to receive the
24 state health insurance contribution toward health care coverage as a result of any
25 other employment for which there is a public employer contribution. This does not
26 preclude a retiree and an active employee spouse from using both contributions to
27 the extent needed for purchase of one (1) state sponsored health insurance policy

1 for that plan year.

2 (13) (a) The policies of health insurance coverage procured under subsection (2) of
3 this section shall include a mail-order drug option for maintenance drugs for
4 state employees. Maintenance drugs may be dispensed by mail order in
5 accordance with Kentucky law.

6 (b) A health insurer shall not discriminate against any retail pharmacy located
7 within the geographic coverage area of the health benefit plan and that meets
8 the terms and conditions for participation established by the insurer, including
9 price, dispensing fee, and copay requirements of a mail-order option. The
10 retail pharmacy shall not be required to dispense by mail.

11 (c) The mail-order option shall not permit the dispensing of a controlled
12 substance classified in Schedule II.

13 (14) The policy or policies provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to
14 this section shall provide coverage for obtaining a hearing aid and acquiring hearing
15 aid-related services for insured individuals under eighteen (18) years of age, subject
16 to a cap of one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400) every thirty-six (36) months
17 pursuant to KRS 304.17A-132.

18 (15) Any policy provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to this section
19 shall provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders
20 consistent with KRS 304.17A-142.

21 (16) Any policy provided to state employees or their dependents pursuant to this section
22 shall provide coverage for obtaining amino acid-based elemental formula pursuant
23 to KRS 304.17A-258.

24 (17) If a state employee's residence and place of employment are in the same county,
25 and if the hospital located within that county does not offer surgical services,
26 intensive care services, obstetrical services, level II neonatal services, diagnostic
27 cardiac catheterization services, and magnetic resonance imaging services, the

1 employee may select a plan available in a contiguous county that does provide
2 those services, and the state contribution for the plan shall be the amount available
3 in the county where the plan selected is located.

4 (18) If a state employee's residence and place of employment are each located in
5 counties in which the hospitals do not offer surgical services, intensive care
6 services, obstetrical services, level II neonatal services, diagnostic cardiac
7 catheterization services, and magnetic resonance imaging services, the employee
8 may select a plan available in a county contiguous to the county of residence that
9 does provide those services, and the state contribution for the plan shall be the
10 amount available in the county where the plan selected is located.

11 (19) The Personnel Cabinet is encouraged to study whether it is fair and reasonable and
12 in the best interests of the state group to allow any carrier bidding to offer health
13 care coverage under this section to submit bids that may vary county by county or
14 by larger geographic areas.

15 (20) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the bid for proposals for health
16 insurance coverage for calendar year 2004 shall include a bid scenario that reflects
17 the statewide rating structure provided in calendar year 2003 and a bid scenario that
18 allows for a regional rating structure that allows carriers to submit bids that may
19 vary by region for a given product offering as described in this subsection:

20 (a) The regional rating bid scenario shall not include a request for bid on a
21 statewide option;

22 (b) The Personnel Cabinet shall divide the state into geographical regions which
23 shall be the same as the partnership regions designated by the Department for
24 Medicaid Services for purposes of the Kentucky Health Care Partnership
25 Program established pursuant to 907 KAR 1:705;

26 (c) The request for proposal shall require a carrier's bid to include every county
27 within the region or regions for which the bid is submitted and include but not

1 be restricted to a preferred provider organization (PPO) option;

2 (d) If the Personnel Cabinet accepts a carrier's bid, the cabinet shall award the

3 carrier all of the counties included in its bid within the region. If the Personnel

4 Cabinet deems the bids submitted in accordance with this subsection to be in

5 the best interests of state employees in a region, the cabinet may award the

6 contract for that region to no more than two (2) carriers; and

7 (e) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the Personnel Cabinet from including

8 other requirements or criteria in the request for proposal.

9 (21) Any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed on or

10 after July 12, 2006, to public employees pursuant to this section which provides

11 coverage for services rendered by a physician or osteopath duly licensed under KRS

12 Chapter 311 that are within the scope of practice of an optometrist duly licensed

13 under the provisions of KRS Chapter 320 shall provide the same payment of

14 coverage to optometrists as allowed for those services rendered by physicians or

15 osteopaths.

16 (22) Any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed to

17 public employees pursuant to this section shall comply with:

18 (a) KRS 304.12-237;

19 (b) KRS 304.17A-270 and 304.17A-525;

20 (c) KRS 304.17A-600 to 304.17A-633;

21 (d) KRS 205.593;

22 (e) KRS 304.17A-700 to 304.17A-730;

23 (f) KRS 304.14-135;

24 (g) KRS 304.17A-580 and 304.17A-641;

25 (h) KRS 304.99-123;

26 (i) KRS 304.17A-138;

27 (j) KRS 304.17A-148;

- 1 (k) KRS 304.17A-163 and 304.17A-1631;
- 2 (l) KRS 304.17A-265;
- 3 (m) KRS 304.17A-261;
- 4 (n) KRS 304.17A-262;
- 5 (o) KRS 304.17A-145;
- 6 (p) KRS 304.17A-129;
- 7 (q) KRS 304.17A-133;
- 8 (r) KRS 304.17A-264;[and]
- 9 (s) **Section 1 of this Act; and**
- 10 (t) Administrative regulations promulgated pursuant to statutes listed in this
11 subsection.
- 12 (23) (a) Any fully insured health benefit plan or self-insured plan issued or renewed to
13 public employees pursuant to this section shall provide a special enrollment
14 period to pregnant women who are eligible for coverage in accordance with
15 the requirements set forth in KRS 304.17-182.
- 16 (b) The Department of Employee Insurance shall, at or before the time a public
17 employee is initially offered the opportunity to enroll in the plan or coverage,
18 provide the employee a notice of the special enrollment rights under this
19 subsection.
- 20 ➔ Section 6. Sections 1, 3, 4, and 5 of this Act apply to the health insurance
21 policies, certificates, contracts, or plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027.
- 22 ➔ Section 7. This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.