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3/19/2024

Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee Members:

The Minnesota Spina Bifida Association is writing to you and your members to show our support for SF 3926 Requiring Health insurance plans to cover intermittent catheters.

People living with Spina Bifida rely on intermittent catheterization to provide social continence as well as overall health benefits in evacuating their bladders on a regular basis. Most often this is done every 3-4 hours. However, they cannot control or schedule every aspect of their lives. If someone who uses intermittent catheters has too much fluid intake within their 3-4hr time frame it could result in leakage thus the need to end the social activity they are trying to partake in.

The overall health benefits of intermittent catheterization help with bladder and kidney function. If intermittent catheterization is not performed it can lead to costly medical conditions such as Urinary Tract Infections which often result in hospitalization.

Increasing the limit for health plans to 180 per month would dramatically help people living with Spina Bifida and the population we serve. We also recommend adding language to the bill to include this in the Fee For Service Medical Assistance Population.

Including the coverage of the insertion supplies (lubricant, gloves etc.) also comes with great health benefits to those individuals who use intermittent catheters. Lubricant aids in the insertion while also preventing tearing of internal soft tissue, and gloves provide a more sterile and cleaner environment. The coverage of insertion supplies or pre-lubricated sterile intermittent catheters would provide a more wholistic health benefit and prevent future costly medical expenses.

Thank you for considering this bill.

Sincerely,

Greg Wisher  
Board Member  
MN Spina Bifida Association