

New Legislation Requiring Coverage of Meningococcal B Vaccine for OSU Outbreak

Newly enacted legislation (House Bill 3276) applies to the OSU outbreak of meningococcal disease that began with cases found in November 2016. This new law requires health insurers to cover the cost of vaccines and antibiotics necessary to prevent the spread of the outbreak for enrollees in a health benefit plan offered by the insurer who are 25 years of age and under, and who are attending or enrolled to attend OSU at the Corvallis campus.

The law also specifically prohibits health insurers from restricting required coverage by doing any of the following:

- Requiring services be administered by an in-network provider
- Imposing cost-sharing requirements that are greater than cost-sharing requirements for similar covered services
- Requiring prior authorization or other utilization control measures
- Limiting coverage in any manner that prevents an enrollee from accessing necessary health services
- Requiring prescriptions from in-network providers restricts access to coverage and is prohibited

The law applies to health insurers, including health care service contractors and multiple employer welfare arrangements, offering health benefit plans in Oregon. The law does not affect students covered by self-insured employer plans. (The state is federally pre-empted from regulating these plans.) Similarly, if a student is from out-of-state and is insured by a plan in another state, Oregon has limited regulatory authority.

A consumer advocacy line is available for patients and providers facing challenges with insurers in the implementation of this law. Connect with advocates at **1-888-877-4894** or cp.ins@oregon.gov.