

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 535  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/5/09

Short Title: Health Insurance Coverage/Lymphedema.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 12, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEALTH INSURERS, INCLUDING THE STATE HEALTH PLAN,  
3 TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF  
4 LYMPHEDEMA.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Article 3 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
7 the following new section to read:

8 "**§ 58-3-280. Coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of lymphedema.**

9 (a) Every health benefit plan, as defined in G.S. 58-3-167, shall provide coverage for  
10 the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of lymphedema. The coverage required by this section  
11 shall include benefits for equipment, supplies, complex decongestive therapy, gradient  
12 compression garments, and self-management training and education, if the treatment is  
13 determined to be medically necessary and is provided by a licensed occupational or physical  
14 therapist or licensed nurse that has experience providing this treatment, or other licensed health  
15 care professional whose treatment of lymphedema is within the professional's scope of practice.

16 (b) The same deductibles, coinsurance, and other limitations as apply to similar services  
17 covered under the health benefit plan apply to coverage for the diagnosis, evaluation, and  
18 treatment of lymphedema required to be covered under this section. Nothing in this section  
19 requires a health benefit plan to provide a separate set of benefit limitations or maximums for  
20 the diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of lymphedema.

21 (c) As used in this section, gradient compression garments:

22 (1) Require a prescription;

23 (2) Are custom-fit for the covered individual; and

24 (3) Do not include disposable medical supplies such as over-the-counter  
25 compression or elastic knee-high or other stocking products."

26 SECTION 2. G.S. 135-45 is amended by adding the following new subsection to  
27 read:

28 "(h) The Plan shall provide coverage under its Basic and Standard PPO options for the  
29 diagnosis and treatment of lymphedema. The coverage shall be the equivalent of coverage  
30 under G.S. 58-3-280."

31 SECTION 3. This act becomes effective January 1, 2010, and applies to all health  
32 benefits plans that are delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on and after that date.

