

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 494

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to information provided by certain health benefit plans through the Internet.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Article 3.70-3C, Insurance Code, as added by Chapter 1024, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, is amended by adding Section 6A to read as follows:

Sec. 6A. INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH INTERNET SITE.

(a) An insurer subject to this article that maintains an Internet site shall list on the Internet site the preferred providers, including, if appropriate, mental health providers and substance abuse treatment providers, that may be used by insureds in accordance with the terms of the insured's preferred provider benefit plan. The listing must identify those preferred providers who continue to be available to provide services to new patients or clients.

(b) The insurer shall update at least quarterly an Internet site subject to this section.

(c) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section. The rules may govern the form and content of the information required to be provided under Subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, this section applies to an entity subject to Chapter 941 or 942 of

1 this code and to a multiple employer welfare arrangement that holds
2 a certificate of authority under Chapter 846 of this code.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 842, Insurance Code, as
4 effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Section 842.261 to read
5 as follows:

6 Sec. 842.261. INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH INTERNET SITE.

7 (a) A group hospital service corporation that maintains an
8 Internet site shall list on the Internet site the physicians and
9 health care providers, including, if appropriate, mental health
10 providers and substance abuse treatment providers, that may be used
11 by members in accordance with the terms of the policy or certificate
12 applicable to the member. The listing must identify those
13 physicians and health care providers who continue to be available
14 to provide services to new patients or clients.

15 (b) The group hospital service corporation shall update at
16 least quarterly an Internet site subject to this section.

17 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
18 implement this section. The rules may govern the form and content
19 of the information required to be provided under Subsection (a).

20 SECTION 3. Subchapter F, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, as
21 effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Section 843.2015 to
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 843.2015. INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH INTERNET

24 SITE. (a) A health maintenance organization that maintains an
25 Internet site shall list on the Internet site the physicians and
26 providers, including, if appropriate, mental health providers and
27 substance abuse treatment providers, that may be used by enrollees

1 in accordance with the terms of the enrollee's health care plan.
2 The listing must identify those physicians and providers who
3 continue to be available to provide services to new patients or
4 clients.

5 (b) The health maintenance organization shall update at
6 least quarterly an Internet site subject to this section.

7 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
8 implement this section. The rules may govern the form and content
9 of the information required to be provided under Subsection (a).

10 SECTION 4. An insurer, group hospital service corporation,
11 or health maintenance organization is not required to comply with
12 the change in law made by this Act before January 1, 2004.

13 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.