

HB 1499: Long-Acting Reversible Contraception

Rep. Shamed Dogan

The ISSUE

Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) devices are defined as birth control implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs). **LARCs are more than 99% effective**, last three to ten years, and require no further action after insertion, making them the easiest and most effective form of birth control.¹

Currently, when a MO HealthNet patient is prescribed a LARC, the provider has the option to order the device through a specialty pharmacy, which delivers the device to the provider in 5-14 days. The patient must then return to the healthcare provider at a later date for insertion of the device.

Problems arise when the patient does not return to the clinic for LARC insertion. The device, now abandoned and registered to one specific patient, cannot be transferred to a different patient due to current MO HealthNet regulations. **In FY17 there were 1,833 LARC devices that were abandoned.**

HB 1499 would permit a LARC that is prescribed to and obtained for a MO HealthNet patient to be transferred to a different MO HealthNet patient if the LARC was not used in the original MO HealthNet patient to whom the LARC was prescribed. In order for the LARC device to be transferred to a different MO HealthNet patient, the device must be:

- Unopened and unused;
- Have been in the possession of the healthcare provider for **at least 12 weeks**;
- Not have left the possession of the healthcare provider who originally prescribed the LARC; and
- Be medically appropriate for the patient to whom the LARC is being transferred.

The SOLUTION

The EFFECT

This bill will positively impact the delivery of reproductive healthcare for MO HealthNet patients in Missouri, including:

- **Saving the State \$220,145 in FY19** by decreasing the number of LARC units which are unusable because they have been abandoned by the original patient. **LARC devices are expensive, from \$400 to \$1,000**, and after abandoned LARC units are returned to the specialty pharmacy, they are destroyed. This bill would ensure that devices reach the appropriate patients and that Medicaid dollars are used effectively.
- Decreasing barriers to healthcare and allowing for same-day insertion of LARC devices, **which improves uptake rates and saves patients from additional office visits.**²

"HB 1499 would allow us to serve our clients expeditiously while saving Medicaid dollars in the process."

**Coleen Jones, WHNP-BC,
Family Care Health Centers,
St. Louis**

"This bill would be a tremendous gain for our clinics, allowing us to serve our clients better."

**Diane Anthony, Director, Family
Planning, Ozarks Area
Community Action Corporation**

Questions?

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¹ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, "Taking the Unintended Out of Pregnancy: Colorado's Success with Long-Acting Reversible Contraception," January 2017.

² IUD Taskforce, "Same-Day IUD Insertion," November 2014.