

State of Minnesota

H. F. No. 1817

2.1 (1) requires the optometrist to accept as payment an amount set by a vision care plan
2.2 for a service provided to an insured individual or enrollee that is not a covered service under
2.3 the insured individual's or enrollee's plan; and

2.4 (2) precludes an optometrist from discussing treatment options with a patient.

2.5 (b) No optometrist shall charge more for services that are not covered services than the
2.6 optometrist's usual and customary rate for the services.

2.7 (c) Each evidence of coverage or provider locator for an individual or a group vision
2.8 care plan shall include:

2.9 (1) the following statement:

2.10 "IMPORTANT: If a covered member elects to receive vision care services that are not
2.11 covered services under this plan, a participating provider may charge the member the
2.12 provider's usual and customary rate for the services. Before providing a member with vision
2.13 care services that are not covered services, the provider shall provide the member with a
2.14 treatment plan that includes each anticipated service or procedure to be provided and the
2.15 estimated cost of each service or procedure. To fully understand the coverage, a member
2.16 may wish to review the member's complete evidence of coverage document"; and

2.17 (2) if applicable, a statement that the plan uses a proprietary or exclusive network of
2.18 laboratories and suppliers.

2.19 (d) Each optometrist shall notify patients that services that are not covered services under
2.20 an insurance policy or plan might not be offered at a discounted rate by:

2.21 (1) posting a notice in a conspicuous place;

2.22 (2) providing the patient with a treatment plan that includes each anticipated service to
2.23 be provided and the estimated cost of each service, before providing the patient with services
2.24 that are not covered services; and

2.25 (3) obtaining a written confirmation of understanding from the patient.

2.26 (e) Optometrists recommending out-of-network suppliers or laboratories must notify
2.27 the patient that those suppliers or laboratories are out of network and must further notify
2.28 the patient of any ownership or other financial interest or incentive that the optometrist may
2.29 have in the use of the out-of-network supplier or laboratory.