

Assembly Bill No. 396

CHAPTER 353

An act to amend Sections 10123.83 and 11512.295 of the Insurance Code, relating to health coverage.

[Approved by Governor August 3, 1995. Filed with
Secretary of State August 4, 1995.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 396, Speier. Health coverage: primary care providers.

Existing law requires that disability insurance policies and nonprofit hospital service plan contracts that cover hospital, medical, or surgical expenses must include obstetrician-gynecologists as primary care providers if they meet the insurers' written eligibility criteria for all specialists seeking primary care physician status. This requirement applies to policies or service plan contracts that are issued, amended, delivered, or renewed in this state.

This bill would instead provide that obstetrician-gynecologists must be included as eligible primary care physicians if they meet the insurers' written eligibility criteria for all specialists seeking primary care physician status.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 10123.83 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:

10123.83. (a) On or after January 1, 1995, every policy of disability insurance that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses and is issued, amended, delivered, or renewed in this state shall include obstetrician-gynecologists as eligible primary care physicians provided they meet the insurer's written eligibility criteria for all specialists seeking primary care physician status.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "primary care physician" means a physician, as defined in Section 14254 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, who has the responsibility for providing initial and primary care to patients, for maintaining the continuity of patient care, and for initiating referral for specialist care. This means providing care for the majority of health care problems, including, but not limited to, preventive services, acute and chronic conditions, and psychosocial issues.

SEC. 2. Section 11512.295 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:

11512.295. (a) On or after January 1, 1995, every nonprofit hospital service plan contract that provides hospital, medical, or



surgical coverage, that is issued, amended, delivered, or renewed in this state, shall include obstetrician-gynecologists as eligible primary care physicians provided they meet the plan's written eligibility criteria for all specialists seeking primary care physician status.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "primary care physician" means a physician, as defined in Section 14254 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, who has the responsibility for providing initial and primary care to patients, for maintaining the continuity of patient care, and for initiating referral for specialist care. This means providing care for the majority of health care problems, including, but not limited to, preventive services, acute and chronic conditions, and psychosocial issues.

