

SB 214 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AMENDMENTS (Kwan, K.)
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Anticipated Fiscal Impact: none
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This bill would allow a mental health therapist to diagnose autism for purposes of the state insurance mandate, in addition to the current physicians of neurology, psychiatry or a psychologist.

PEHP would not expect an increase in costs to the state employee health plan because, unlike some health insurers, PEHP allows most Utah providers to contract with PEHP for services within the scope of their license. By allowing additional providers to diagnose autism, the bill would allow a member more choice rather than increasing demand. Further, PEHP has tools as a health plan to control per unit costs and utilization by modifying reimbursement amounts, establishing clinical policies for medical necessity, requiring documentation to prove the diagnosis or medical need, tracking provider practices, and maintaining provider contracts. As such, PEHP would not expect that expanding the number of providers who could diagnose autism would increase plan costs.