

A-2467

Brief Description:

Requires health insurance coverage for anesthesiology services in connection with outpatient diagnostic screenings, including colonoscopies.

Bill #/Sponsor(s):

Assemblyman Neil Cohen (D-Union)

Reasons to Support:

- For the frail/elderly it is safer to have an anesthesiologist present to monitor sedation. S/he is trained to administer dosages that manage the discomfort/pain without creating unnecessary difficulty or complications upon waking or following the procedure. GI physicians don't get that specific training and may administer too high/low a dosage based on age and/or body type.
- Proper sedation and pain management levels reduce patient fear thus increasing the likelihood they will have the procedure performed.
- Frees up the treating physician to focus on the procedure.

Reasons to Oppose:

- As with any medical decision, the practitioner should be able to make decisions based on need, best practices appropriateness, and experience. More drugs may not be "best" for the patient.
- There would be additional/unnecessary cost for an anesthesiologist to be present for every routine colonoscopy when sedation might be sufficient.
- Decisions made based on what is appropriate and best for the patient should not be superseded by mandate.

NJAHU Position:

MONITOR at this time.

Status:

3/6/2008 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.



Legislative Briefing

3.11.2008