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*State*

## **INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CLINICAL TRIALS**

### **Request**

AMS urges the Legislature to introduce legislation that would require insurance companies and health maintenance organizations to cover the costs of care in federally approved clinical trials, when the trial does not cover the costs.

### **Background**

A growing number of states (currently 19) have passed legislation requiring health plans to pay the cost of routine medical care received as a participant in a clinical trial. "Routine patient care costs" are the usual costs of medical care, such as physician visits, hospital stays and clinical laboratory tests. Some health plans will not cover these costs if a patient joins a trial, even though they are not appreciably higher than costs for patients who are not enrolled in trials.

Lack of such coverage is a barrier to many patients who might otherwise enroll in a trial and it also prevents researchers from successfully conducting trials that could improve prevention and treatment options.