



DEPARTMENT OF  
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SERVICES

# NEWS RELEASE

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Director's Office, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 200, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

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## **Public comments sought for new health insurance rules on coverage of chemical dependency and mental health conditions**

(Salem) A state advisory committee is seeking public input on administrative rules implementing Senate Bill 1. The measure, passed by the 2005 Legislature, requires health insurers to provide the same level of coverage for treatment of chemical dependency and mental or nervous conditions as they do for other medical conditions.

The SB 1 Advisory Committee to the Department of Consumer & Business Services, Insurance Division will accept public comments at its meeting Monday, March 20, at 4 p.m. in Room 260 of the Labor and Industries Building, 350 Winter St. NE, in Salem.

Shelley Bain, senior policy analyst for the Insurance Division, said the committee wants to hear from the public before drafting administrative rules. Bain said issues to be addressed by the rules include a definition of "mental and nervous conditions," what constitutes "the same level" of coverage, which health care providers are covered, and what conditions might be excluded from coverage.

Written comments can be sent to Shelley Bain, Insurance Division, P.O. Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405, or shelley.d.bain@state.or.us. For more information, contact Bain by e-mail or by calling 503-947-7216.

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