



## Study Resolution

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### **Eating Disorders and Obesity Prevention and Treatment**

Authorized by the Joint Commission on Healthcare on December 7, 2022

WHEREAS, obesity affects more than 30 percent of Virginians and eating disorders affect Virginians in smaller numbers but are often underdiagnosed;

WHEREAS, eating disorders and obesity are chronic conditions that are each associated with significant physical and mental health consequences; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests effective strategies for prevention, early identification, and treatment of these chronic conditions can reduce morbidity, mortality, and societal costs; and

WHEREAS, matching federal funds are available to Virginia's Medicaid program to improve prevention services, including obesity prevention, but coverage of prevention services in the private market is unknown; and

WHEREAS, a previous Joint Commission on Health Care study highlighted multiple barriers to care for eating disorders, including patient costs and provider availability, and;

WHEREAS, House Bill 1098 from the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly requires the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the payment of medical assistance for obesity prevention and other obesity-related services; and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution 11 from the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly, directing a study of eating disorders in Virginia, was referred to the Joint Commission on Health Care, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Joint Commission on Health Care, that staff be directed to study the prevention and treatment of eating disorders and obesity in Virginia.

The study shall (i) document the prevalence and incidence of eating disorders and obesity among Virginians; (ii) identify evidence-based strategies for the prevention, early identification, and treatment of eating disorders and obesity; (iii) document the extent to which Virginia's Medicaid program and state-regulated private health plans cover the costs of these strategies; (iv) assess barriers to care for eating disorder treatment in Virginia; and (v) identify policy options to improve the prevention, early identification, and treatment of obesity and eating disorders in Virginia.

The Joint Commission on Health Care shall make recommendations as necessary and review other related issues as warranted.

In accordance with § 30-169.1 of the Code of Virginia, all agencies of the Commonwealth, including the Virginia Bureau of Insurance, the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Department

of Health, the Virginia Department of Health Professions, and the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, shall provide assistance, information, and data to the Joint Commission on Health Care for this study upon request.