Karen Lewis

Genetic Counselor Licensure Bill Testimony

- As a health plan and payer for medical services, Priority Health wants its members to have accurate, complete and up-to-date information when making decisions regarding their healthcare. This is consistent with the Institute of Medicine's standard of patient-centered care.
- It is our position that licensing genetics counselors insures a level of competency and training that does not exist today. This masters-level training through accredited university programs requires genetic counselors to pass the same board exams as physicians.
- Given the rapid evolution of the field of genetics and its clinical implications, we believe that it's more important than ever to insure that patients can access providers with demonstrated expertise.
- Our medical policy regarding genetics counseling and testing requires the use of board certified GCs for certain genetic tests, i.e. cancer genetic syndromes, in order to try to ensure that our members are receiving the correct information, appropriate testing options and access to services and referrals for their individual and family needs.