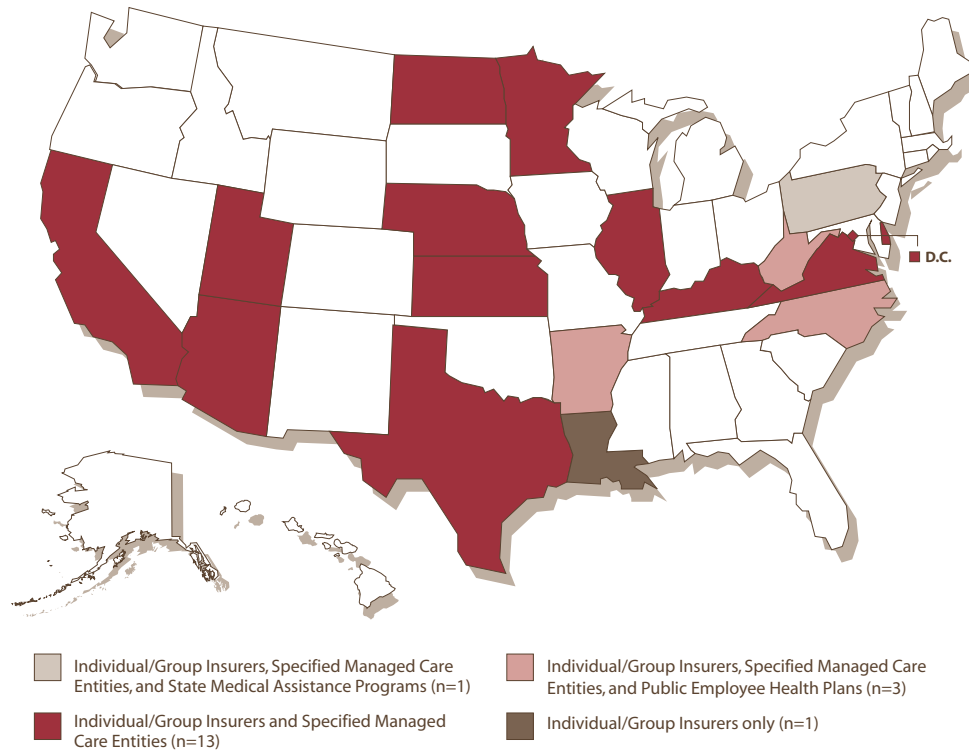


Legislative Data Byte

States with Laws Requiring Third-Party Coverage for Lymphedema Treatment* (as of June 30, 2003)



* Lymphedema resulting from treatment for breast cancer only.

Lymphedema is the buildup of lymph in the fatty tissues just under the skin. The buildup causes swelling in specific areas of the body with an abnormally high amount of tissue proteins, chronic inflammation, and thickening and scarring of tissue under the skin. Lymphedema is a common complication of cancer and cancer treatment and can result in long-term physical, psychological, and social issues for patients.¹

In 1998, California became the first state to adopt legislation requiring specified third-party payers to provide coverage for the treatment of lymphedema that results from breast cancer treatment. As of June 30, 2003, 17 states—**Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia**, and the **District of Columbia** (collectively, states)—have enacted legislation mandating such coverage.

All 18 states require lymphedema treatment coverage to be provided by specified individual and group insurers. Of those states, 17 also require coverage to be provided by specified managed care entities, i.e., health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and/or preferred provider organizations (PPOs); 3 also require coverage by public employee health plans, and 1 also requires coverage by the state medical assistance program.

In 2003, **Virginia** took this initiative a step further. In addition to requiring coverage for the treatment of lymphedema resulting from breast cancer treatment, **Virginia** also requires specified individual and group insurers and HMOs to provide coverage for lymphedema treatment regardless of the cause of the condition.

¹ Lymphedema information obtained from the National Cancer Institute's Cancer.gov website at: <http://www.nci.nih.gov/cancerinfo/pdq/supportivecare/lymphedema>.