
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5441

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Health Care (originally sponsored by Senators Rivers, Frockt, Parlette, Bailey, Conway, Keiser, and Benton)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to patient medication coordination; adding a new
2 section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
3 41.05 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A health benefit plan issued or renewed after December 31,
8 2015, that provides coverage for prescription drugs must implement a
9 medication synchronization policy for the dispensing of prescription
10 drugs to the plan's enrollees.

11 (2) A health plan must adjust the enrollee cost-sharing for a
12 prescription drug that is dispensed for less than the standard refill
13 amount for the purpose of synchronizing the medications.

14 (3) Upon request of an enrollee, the prescribing provider or
15 pharmacist shall:

16 (a) Determine that filling or refilling the prescription is in
17 the best interest of the enrollee, taking into account the
18 appropriateness of synchronization for the drug being dispensed;

19 (b) Inform the enrollee that the prescription will be filled to
20 less than the standard refill amount for the purpose of synchronizing
21 his or her medications; and

1 (c) Deny synchronization on the grounds of threat to patient
2 safety or suspected fraud or abuse.

3 (4) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
4 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5 (a) "Medication synchronization" means the coordination of
6 medication refills for a patient taking two or more medications for a
7 chronic condition such that the patient's medications are refilled on
8 the same schedule for a given time period.

9 (b) "Prescription" has the same meaning as in RCW 18.64.011.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) A health benefit plan offered to public employees and their
13 covered dependents under this chapter that is not subject to chapter
14 48.43 RCW, that is issued or renewed after December 31, 2015, and
15 that provides coverage for prescription drugs must implement a
16 medication synchronization policy for the dispensing of prescription
17 drugs to the plan's enrollees.

18 (2) A health plan must adjust the enrollee cost-sharing for a
19 prescription drug that is dispensed for less than the standard refill
20 amount for the purpose of synchronizing the medications.

21 (3) Upon request of an enrollee, the prescribing provider or
22 pharmacist shall:

23 (a) Determine that filling or refilling the prescription is in
24 the best interest of the enrollee, taking into account the
25 appropriateness of synchronization for the drug being dispensed;

26 (b) Inform the enrollee that the prescription will be filled to
27 less than the standard refill amount for the purpose of synchronizing
28 his or her medications; and

29 (c) Deny synchronization on the grounds of threat to patient
30 safety or suspected fraud or abuse.

31 (4) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
32 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

33 (a) "Medication synchronization" means the coordination of
34 medication refills for a patient taking two or more medications for a
35 chronic condition such that the patient's medications are refilled on
36 the same schedule for a given time period.

37 (b) "Prescription" has the same meaning as in RCW 18.64.011.

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