
SENATE BILL 5441

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Rivers, Frockt, Parlette, Bailey, Conway, Keiser, and Benton

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

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:

9 (a) May not deny coverage and must prorate the cost-sharing rate
10 for a prescription drug covered by the plan that is dispensed by a
11 network pharmacy for less than the standard refill amount if:

12 (i) The prescribing provider or pharmacist determines that
13 filling or refilling the prescription is in the best interest of the
14 enrollee; and

15 (ii) The enrollee requests or agrees to less than the standard
16 refill amount for the purpose of synchronizing his or her
17 medications;

18 (b) Must allow a pharmacy to override a denial code related to an
19 early refill if the prescription drug is being dispensed as part of a
20 medication synchronization program; and

1 (c) Must pay a full pharmacy dispensing fee for each prescription
2 drug dispensed and may not prorate a dispensing fee, regardless of
3 whether:

4 (i) The prescription drug is partially filled or refilled; or

5 (ii) The enrollee's copay or fee paid for medication
6 synchronization services is prorated.

7 (2) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
8 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

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

13 (b) "Network pharmacy" means a pharmacy that participates in the
14 health benefit plan's network.

15 (c) "Prescription" has the same meaning as in RCW 18.64.011.

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

18 (1) A health benefit plan offered to public employees and their
19 covered dependents under this chapter that is not subject to chapter
20 48.43 RCW, that is issued or renewed after December 31, 2015, and
21 that provides coverage for prescription drugs:

22 (a) May not deny coverage and must prorate the cost-sharing rate
23 for a prescription drug covered by the plan that is dispensed by a
24 network pharmacy for less than the standard refill amount if:

25 (i) The prescribing provider or pharmacist determines that
26 filling or refilling the prescription is in the best interest of the
27 enrollee; and

28 (ii) The enrollee requests or agrees to less than the standard
29 refill amount for the purpose of synchronizing his or her
30 medications;

31 (b) Must allow a pharmacy to override a denial code related to an
32 early refill if the prescription drug is being dispensed as part of a
33 medication synchronization program; and

34 (c) Must pay a full pharmacy dispensing fee for each prescription
35 drug dispensed and may not prorate a dispensing fee, regardless of
36 whether:

37 (i) The prescription drug is partially filled or refilled; or

38 (ii) The enrollee's copay or fee paid for medication
39 synchronization services is prorated.

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

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

7 (b) "Network pharmacy" means a pharmacy that participates in the
8 health benefit plan's network.

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

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