
SENATE BILL 5251

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Mullet, Rivers, Palumbo, and Rolfes

Read first time 01/16/19. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to prescription drug cost transparency;
2 reenacting and amending RCW 74.09.215; adding a new chapter to Title
3 43 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS. (1) The legislature finds that
6 the state of Washington has substantial public interest in the price
7 and cost of prescription drugs.

8 (2) The legislature finds that it is essential to understand the
9 drivers and impacts of these costs, and transparency is typically the
10 first step toward cost containment and greater consumer access to
11 needed prescription drugs.

12 (3) The legislature intends to enact this chapter to provide
13 notice and disclosure of information relating to the cost and pricing
14 of prescription drugs in order to provide accountability at all
15 levels of the supply chain to the state for prescription drug
16 pricing.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this
18 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly
19 requires otherwise.

- 1 (1) "Accelerated approval," "breakthrough therapy," and "fast
2 track product" mean the same as in 21 U.S.C. Sec. 356.
- 3 (2) "Authority" means the health care authority.
- 4 (3) "Biological product" means the same as in 42 U.S.C. Sec.
5 262(i).
- 6 (4) "Biologics license application" means a request for
7 permission from the FDA to introduce, or deliver for introduction, a
8 biological product into interstate commerce.
- 9 (5) "FDA" means the United States food and drug administration.
- 10 (6) "Health care provider," "health plan," and "issuer" mean the
11 same as in RCW 48.43.005.
- 12 (7) "New molecular entity" means a drug or chemical in
13 development that is not a version or derivative of an existing and
14 previously investigated, trialed, and approved substance.
- 15 (8) "Office" means the office of financial management.
- 16 (9) "Orphan drug" means a drug intended for the treatment,
17 diagnosis, or prevention of a rare disease or disorder that affects
18 fewer than two hundred thousand people in the United States, or a
19 drug intended for the treatment, diagnosis, or prevention of a rare
20 disease or disorder that affects more than two hundred thousand
21 people but is not expected to recover the development and marketing
22 costs.
- 23 (10) "Pharmacy" means the same as in RCW 18.64.011.
- 24 (11) "Pharmacy benefit manager" means the same as in RCW
25 19.340.010.
- 26 (12) "Pharmacy services administrative organization" means an
27 entity that provides contracting and other administrative services to
28 pharmacies to assist them in their interaction, including
29 reimbursement rate negotiations, with third-party payers, pharmacy
30 benefit managers, drug wholesalers, and other entities.
- 31 (13) "Pipeline drug" means a drug containing a new molecular
32 entity for which a manufacturer has filed a new drug application or
33 biologics license application with, and received an action date from
34 the FDA.
- 35 (14) "Prescription drug" means a drug regulated under chapter
36 69.41 or 69.50 RCW. It includes generic, brand name, and specialty
37 drugs, as well as biological products.
- 38 (15) "Priority review" means the FDA will take action on a new
39 drug application or biologics license application within six months.

1 (16) "Rebate" means a discount or concession on the cost of a
2 prescription drug provided by a prescription drug manufacturer
3 directly to a health carrier or to a pharmacy benefit manager after a
4 claim from a pharmacy for the sale of the drug is processed.

5 (17) "Specialty drug" means a prescription drug that exceeds the
6 threshold for the specialty tier of the medicare Part D prescription
7 drug formulary as established by the centers for medicare and
8 medicaid services.

9 (18) "Wholesale acquisition cost" means, with respect to a
10 prescription drug, the manufacturer's list price for the drug to
11 wholesalers or direct purchasers in the United States, excluding any
12 discounts, rebates, or reductions in price, for the most recent month
13 for which the information is available, as reported in wholesale
14 price guides or other publications of prescription drug pricing.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** ISSUER REPORTING. Beginning October 1,
16 2019, and on a yearly basis thereafter, an issuer must submit to the
17 office the following prescription drug cost and utilization data for
18 the previous calendar year:

19 (1) The twenty-five prescription drugs most frequently prescribed
20 by health care providers participating in the issuer's network;

21 (2) The twenty-five costliest prescription drugs by total health
22 plan spending, and the issuer's total spending for each of these
23 prescription drugs;

24 (3) The twenty-five drugs with the highest year-over-year
25 increase in prescription drug spending, excluding drugs made
26 available for the first time that plan year, and the percentages of
27 the increases for each of these prescription drugs;

28 (4) The portion of the premium that is attributable to each of
29 the following categories of covered prescription drugs:

- 30 (a) Brand name drugs;
31 (b) Generic drugs; and
32 (c) Specialty drugs;

33 (5) The year-over-year increase, calculated on a per member, per
34 month basis and expressed as a percentage, in the total annual cost
35 of each category of covered drugs listed in subsection (4) of this
36 section;

37 (6) A comparison, calculated on a per member, per month basis, of
38 the year-over-year increase in the cost of covered drugs to the year-
39 over-year increase in the costs of other contributors to premiums;

1 (7) The name of each covered specialty drug; and

2 (8) The names of the twenty-five most frequently prescribed drugs
3 for which the issuer received rebates from pharmaceutical
4 manufacturers.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER REPORTING.

6 Beginning October 1, 2019, and on a yearly basis thereafter, a
7 pharmacy benefit manager must submit to the office the following
8 prescription drug data for the previous calendar year:

9 (1) The aggregate dollar amount of all rebates received from
10 pharmaceutical manufacturers for prescription drugs that were covered
11 by the pharmacy benefit manager's issuer clients during the calendar
12 year, and are attributable to patient utilization of such drugs
13 during the calendar year;

14 (2) The aggregate dollar amount of all rebates received by the
15 pharmacy benefit manager from pharmaceutical manufacturers that are
16 not passed through to the issuer clients.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** PHARMACY SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE

18 ORGANIZATION REPORTING. Beginning October 1, 2019, and on a yearly
19 basis thereafter, a pharmacy services administrative organization
20 representing a pharmacy or pharmacy chain in the state must submit to
21 the office the following data from the previous calendar year:

22 (1) The negotiated reimbursement rate of the twenty-five
23 prescription drugs with the highest reimbursement rate;

24 (2) The twenty-five prescription drugs with the largest year-to-
25 year change in reimbursement rate, expressed as a percentage and
26 dollar amount;

27 (3) The schedule of fees charged to pharmacies for the services
28 provided by the pharmacy services administrative organization.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** DATA COLLECTION AND ANNUAL REPORT. (1) The

30 office shall compile and analyze the data submitted by issuers,
31 pharmacy benefit managers, and pharmacy services administrative
32 organizations under sections 3, 4, and 5 of this act and prepare an
33 annual report for the public and the legislature synthesizing the
34 data to demonstrate the overall impact of drug costs on health care
35 premiums. The report must include but is not limited to:

1 (a) An explanation of the manner in which issuers accounted for
2 rebates in calculating premiums for health care plans delivered,
3 issued for delivery, renewed, amended, or continued during such year;

4 (b) A statement disclosing whether, and describing the manner in
5 which, issuers made rebates available to enrollees at the point of
6 purchase during such year;

7 (c) Any other manner in which issuers applied rebates during the
8 year.

9 (2) The data in the report must be aggregated and must not reveal
10 information specific to individual issuers, pharmacy benefit
11 managers, or pharmacy services administrative organizations.

12 (3) Beginning January 1, 2020, and by each January 1st
13 thereafter, the office must publish the report on its web site.

14 (4) Except for the report, the office shall keep confidential all
15 of the information provided pursuant to sections 3, 4, and 5 of this
16 act, and the information is not subject to public disclosure under
17 chapter 42.56 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** MANUFACTURER NOTICE OF NEW DRUG
19 APPLICATIONS. (1) Beginning October 1, 2019, a manufacturer must
20 submit written notice, in a form and manner specified by the
21 authority, informing the authority that the manufacturer has filed
22 with the FDA:

23 (a) A new drug application or biologics license application for a
24 pipeline drug; or

25 (b) A biologics license application for a biological product or
26 biosimilar drug.

27 (2) The notice must be filed within sixty days of the
28 manufacturer receiving an action date from the FDA.

29 (3) Upon receipt of the notice, the authority may conduct a study
30 of the manufacturer if it believes the drug will have a significant
31 impact on state expenditures.

32 (4) A manufacturer subject to a study must provide the following
33 information to the authority:

34 (a) The primary disease, condition, or therapeutic area studied
35 in connection with the new drug, and whether the drug is
36 therapeutically indicated for such disease, condition, or therapeutic
37 area;

38 (b) Each route of administration studied for the drug;

39 (c) Clinical trial comparators for the drug;

1 (d) The date at which the FDA must complete its review of the
2 drug application pursuant to the federal prescription drug user fee
3 act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4491; P.L. 102-571);

4 (e) Whether the FDA has designated the drug an orphan drug, a
5 fast track product, or a breakthrough therapy; and

6 (f) Whether the FDA has designated the drug for accelerated
7 approval, priority review, or if the drug contains a new molecular
8 entity.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** ANNUAL DRUG LIST. (1) Beginning January 1,
10 2020, and yearly thereafter, the authority must prepare a list of ten
11 prescription drugs that:

12 (a) Have a significant impact on state expenditures; or

13 (b) Are critical to public health.

14 (2) The authority may only include prescription drugs with a
15 wholesale acquisition cost, less rebates received by the state during
16 the preceding calendar year, that:

17 (a) (i) Increased by at least twenty percent during the preceding
18 calendar year, or (ii) increased by at least fifty percent in the
19 preceding three calendar years; and

20 (b) Cost at least one hundred dollars for a thirty-day supply or
21 a course of treatment lasting less than thirty days.

22 (3) The authority must notify manufacturers of drugs appearing on
23 the list.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** MANUFACTURER DRUG PRICE REPORTING. (1)
25 Manufacturers of drugs appearing on the list created pursuant to
26 section 8 of this act must provide the following information to the
27 authority within thirty days of receipt of the notice provided by the
28 authority pursuant to section 8(3) of this act:

29 (a) A written, narrative description, suitable for public
30 release, of specific financial and nonfinancial factors used to make
31 the decision to increase the wholesale acquisition cost of the drug;

32 (b) The itemized cost for production and sales, including annual
33 manufacturing costs, annual marketing and advertising costs, total
34 research and development costs, total costs of clinical trials and
35 regulation;

36 (c) The total financial assistance given by the manufacturer
37 through assistance programs, rebates, and coupons;

1 (d) The year the drug was introduced to market and the wholesale
2 acquisition cost of the drug at the time of introduction;

3 (e) The patent expiration date of the drug if it is under patent;
4 and

5 (f) Whether the drug is a multiple source drug, an innovator
6 multiple source drug, a noninnovator multiple source drug, or a
7 single source drug.

8 (2) The authority must establish a standardized form for
9 reporting information and data pursuant to this section after
10 consulting with manufacturers. The form must be designed to minimize
11 the administrative burden and cost of reporting on the authority and
12 manufacturers.

13 (3) The information collection pursuant to this section is not
14 subject to public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** ENFORCEMENT. The office or the authority
16 may assess a fine of up to one thousand dollars per day for failure
17 to comply with the requirements of sections 3, 4, 5, 7 or 9 of this
18 act. The assessment of a fine under this section is subject to review
19 under the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. Fines
20 collected under this section must be deposited in the medicaid fraud
21 penalty account created in RCW 74.09.215.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** RULE MAKING. The office and the authority
23 may adopt any rules necessary to implement the requirements of this
24 chapter.

25 **Sec. 12.** RCW 74.09.215 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 1902, 2013 2nd
26 sp.s. c 4 s 997, and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 995 are each reenacted and
27 amended to read as follows:

28 The medicaid fraud penalty account is created in the state
29 treasury. All receipts from civil penalties collected under RCW
30 74.09.210, all receipts received under judgments or settlements that
31 originated under a filing under the federal false claims act, all
32 receipts from fines received pursuant to section 10 of this act, and
33 all receipts received under judgments or settlements that originated
34 under the state medicaid fraud false claims act, chapter 74.66 RCW,
35 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be
36 spent only after appropriation and must be used only for medicaid
37 services, fraud detection and prevention activities, recovery of

1 improper payments, for other medicaid fraud enforcement activities,
2 and the prescription monitoring program established in chapter 70.225
3 RCW. For the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, moneys in the account may be
4 spent on inpatient and outpatient rebasing and conversion to the
5 tenth version of the international classification of diseases. For
6 the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, moneys in the account may be spent on
7 inpatient and outpatient rebasing.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Sections 1 through 11 of this act
9 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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