

ESSB 5441 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Health Care & Wellness

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 4/14/2015

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) A health benefit plan issued or renewed after December 31,  
6 2015, that provides coverage for prescription drugs must implement a  
7 medication synchronization policy for the dispensing of prescription  
8 drugs to the plan's enrollees.

9 (a) If an enrollee requests medication synchronization for a new  
10 prescription, the health plan must permit filling the drug: (i) For  
11 less than a one-month supply of the drug if synchronization will  
12 require more than a fifteen-day supply of the drug; or (ii) for more  
13 than a one-month supply of the drug if synchronization will require a  
14 fifteen-day supply of the drug or less.

15 (b) The health benefit plan shall adjust the enrollee cost-  
16 sharing for a prescription drug subject to coinsurance that is  
17 dispensed for less than the standard refill amount for the purpose of  
18 synchronizing the medications.

19 (c) The health benefit plan shall adjust the enrollee cost-  
20 sharing for a prescription drug with a copayment that is dispensed  
21 for less than the standard refill amount for the purpose of  
22 synchronizing the medications by:

23 (i) Discounting the copayment rate by fifty percent;

24 (ii) Discounting the copayment rate based on fifteen-day  
25 increments; or

26 (iii) Any other method that meets the intent of this section and  
27 is approved by the office of the insurance commissioner.

28 (2) Upon request of an enrollee, the prescribing provider or  
29 pharmacist shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (a) If an enrollee requests medication synchronization for a new  
22 prescription, the health plan must permit filling the drug: (i) For  
23 less than a one-month supply of the drug if synchronization will  
24 require more than a fifteen-day supply of the drug; or (ii) for more  
25 than a one-month supply of the drug if synchronization will require a  
26 fifteen-day supply of the drug or less.

27 (b) The health benefit plan shall adjust the enrollee cost-  
28 sharing for a prescription drug subject to coinsurance that is  
29 dispensed for less than the standard refill amount for the purpose of  
30 synchronizing the medications.

31 (c) The health benefit plan shall adjust the enrollee cost-  
32 sharing for a prescription drug with a copayment that is dispensed  
33 for less than the standard refill amount for the purpose of  
34 synchronizing the medications by:

35 (i) Discounting the copayment rate by fifty percent;

36 (ii) Discounting the copayment rate based on fifteen-day  
37 increments; or

38 (iii) Any other method that meets the intent of this section and  
39 is approved by the office of the insurance commissioner.

1           (2) Upon request of an enrollee, the prescribing provider or  
2 pharmacist shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

18          Correct the title.

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