
**Health Care & Wellness
Committee**

HB 2694

Brief Description: Establishing a prescription drug professional education program.

Sponsors: Representatives Morrell and Conway.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a prescription drug professional education program in the Health Care Authority.

Hearing Date: 1/21/08

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

The Health Care Authority (HCA) in 2005 was given authority to establish a prescription drug purchasing consortium based on the evidence-based prescription drug program. State-purchased health care programs purchase prescription drugs through this consortium. The HCA was directed to explore joint purchasing opportunities with other states. In addition to reviewing the purchase of prescription drugs, the State of Washington has also applied the principles of evidence-based care and cost effective purchasing to the review of medical devices and procedures. This is for state-purchased health care programs through the health technology assessment program.

Summary of Bill:

The HCA will create a Prescription Drug Professional Education (PDPE) Program. The goal of the PDPE program is to promote evidence-based treatment and use of evidence-based prescriptions by health care practitioners participating in state purchased health care programs. These programs include: medical and health care, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment purchased with state and federal funds by the Department of Social and Health Services; the Department of Health; the Basic Health Plan; the state Health Care Authority; the Department of Labor and Industries; the Department of Corrections; the Department of Veterans Affairs; and local school districts.

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The HCA will design the PDPE program with state agencies administering state purchased health care programs, and HCA will consult with national experts. The PDPE program will include education and outreach to prescribers. The program will also include a report card to each prescriber comparing their practices to evidence-based practice standards. The HCA will annually report to the Legislature the impact the PDPE program is having on prescribing practices and the fiscal impact on state-funded health care programs.

The HCA will establish the PDPE program by January 1, 2009 and begin its annual report to the Legislature starting January 10, 2010.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.