CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5441**

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

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| Passed by the Senate April 16, 2015  Yeas 45 Nays 0  **President of the Senate**  Passed by the House April 14, 2015  Yeas 97 Nays 0  **Speaker of the House of Representatives** | CERTIFICATE  I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5441** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.  **Chief Clerk** |
| Approved |  |
| **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State**  **State of Washington** |

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5441**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2015 Regular Session

**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Discounting the copayment rate by fifty percent;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Discounting the copayment rate by fifty percent;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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