

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5441**

Chapter 213, Laws of 2015

64th Legislature  
2015 Regular Session

INSURANCE--PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE--MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/2015

Passed by the Senate April 16, 2015  
Yeas 45 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 14, 2015  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved May 8, 2015 10:12 AM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

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.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

**Secretary**

FILED

May 8, 2015

**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)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

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 must implement a  
9 medication synchronization policy for the dispensing of prescription  
10 drugs to the plan's enrollees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 than a one-month supply of the drug if synchronization will require a  
2 fifteen-day supply of the drug or less.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed by the Senate April 16, 2015.

Passed by the House April 14, 2015.

Approved by the Governor May 8, 2015.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 8, 2015.