
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5441

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.

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