

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/25, 03/25, 04/15, 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires health plan to provide reimbursement for up to 90-day supply of prescription drug if drug is covered by program or plan, that the drug has been previously dispensed with same dosage instruction for not less than 90-days, that the quantity of drug does not exceed total remaining quantity authorized to be dispensed through refills and the drug is generic. Specifies coverage is limited to formulary restrictions. Restricts Schedule II drugs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Creates resilience plan, particularly for coastal area
- Health plan costs and flexibility
- Accounting for current dispensing practices
- Medication waste
- Chronic condition medications are usually generic
- Review uptake in future

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Pharmacy benefit programs and health benefit plans often allow for up to a 90-day supply for chronic condition medications. If there was a natural disaster such as an earthquake, Oregonians could experience difficulty getting chronic condition medication. One study aimed to determine the extent of medication loss and the burden of prescription refills on medical relief teams following extreme weather and natural disasters found that medication refills were a common need, that a considerable number of patients lost medication during evacuation and it was difficult to fill prescriptions due to a lack of information from evacuees. Overall, people with chronic conditions were most at-risk without access to medication.