

HB 3045: Improving Prescribing & Pathways to Mental Healthcare

Challenge: Finding appropriate pathways to effective treatment, medications, and supports for mental health disorders in Oregon is difficult in the best of circumstance. A contributing factor to this problem is the lack of clear standards of care, which leads to a high degree of regional variation in access to care and quality of care.

Solution: In 2017, the Legislature created the Mental Health Clinical Advisory Group with the mission of creating treatment algorithms that would help standardize treatment decisions and improve access to effective therapies and supports. The Advisory Group is composed of clinicians and other stakeholders with specific expertise in mental health treatments and medications. The group started its work in early 2018.

HB 3045:

- Extends legislatively-adopted mental health medication access protections until 2026, allowing the Advisory Group to finish its work and adopt an implementation plan.
- Clarifies the role of the Advisory Group in relation to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and advisory recommendations on mental health medications.
- When the current protections sunset in 2026, HB 3045:
 - ✓ Establishes grandfathering to ensure individuals stable on medications maintain ongoing access without disruption.
 - ✓ Establishes a simple and workable “dispense as written” override for mental health medications when a prescriber and patient decide that a non-preferred medication is the best option for a patient.

→ HB 3045 represents the final glide path needed to complete and implement the Mental Health Clinical Advisory Group’s treatment and medication algorithms for major mental health conditions.

When completed and implemented, the work of the Mental Health Clinical Advisory Group will help Oregon:

- Focus on improved prescribing practices coupled with other psychosocial therapies and supports as a means to improve outcomes and control overall healthcare costs.
- Aim Oregon toward true integration and standardization through adoption of clear and consistent treatment and medication algorithms that can be deployed across healthcare settings.
- Protect medication access by ensuring Oregonians have access to critical mental health medications based on individual needs and circumstances, increasing the odds that patients will respond to treatment without have to “fail first” on other medications.

View the Advisory Group's Work at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/OHP/Pages/PT-MHCAG.aspx>

For Further Information Please Contact:
Lara Smith 503-804-9750