

SB 1506 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure extends temporary authority for pharmacists to test and provide treatment, including drug therapy, for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Detailed Summary:

Allows a pharmacist to test and provide treatment, including drug therapy, for SARS-CoV-2, consistent with the protocols adopted by the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy (OSBP) by rule. Directs the OSBP's Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee (PFAC) to review and recommend rules. Allows pharmacists to delegate technical tasks related to testing to a pharmacy technician or intern. Requires the Oregon Health Plan to reimburse pharmacists for testing and treatment. Sunsets June 30, 2026.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment specifies that coordinated care organizations and health plans, including commercial health insurance plans, must reimburse pharmacists for testing and treatment for SARS-CoV-2.

Detailed Summary:

Applies to health benefit plans issued, renewed, or extended on or after October 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

Pharmacists in Oregon currently may only test and treat SARS-CoV-2 under federal authority ([link](#) to Ninth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act). This authority is set to expire on October 1, 2024.

Previously, Oregon pharmacists were allowed to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 under protocols approved by the Oregon Board of Pharmacy and its Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee (PFAC) ([link](#) to PFAC website). However, due a change in labelling for Paxlovid, Oregon pharmacists are no longer permitted within the scope of their practice to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 ([link](#) to Health and Human Services website for Paxlovid labelling information). Pharmacists in Oregon would no longer be able to test and treat SARS-CoV-2 once federal authority expires on October 1, 2024.