
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more than twenty-
2 three per cent of Americans currently use three or more
3 prescription medications, and eleven per cent of Americans take
4 five or more medications. According to the most recent data
5 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the costs
6 of treating patients with chronic diseases account for eighty-
7 six per cent of all health care costs in the United States.
8 However, only fifty per cent of those on maintenance medications
9 for chronic diseases adhere to their prescription therapies.

10 The legislature recognizes that studies have shown that
11 medication adherence is critical to long-term positive patient
12 outcomes, and that prescription medications are important tools
13 that can assist in the management of chronic diseases. However,
14 patients often delay or miss their medication refills due to
15 confusion over when prescriptions are needed for refills.

16 The legislature further finds that more than fifteen states
17 have passed legislation that enables pharmacies and patients to



1 work together with their practitioners to synchronize the
2 dispensing of medications. Medication synchronization
3 facilitates the coordination of medication refills so that
4 patients who take two or more maintenance medications for
5 chronic conditions can refill their medications on the same
6 schedule. Medication synchronization improves patient health by
7 improving medication adherence rates, minimizing disruptions in
8 treatment, simplifying patient and caregiver routines,
9 streamlining trips to the pharmacy, reducing costs to insurers,
10 promoting efficient workflow in pharmacies, and synchronizing
11 all of a patient's medications for one pickup day every month.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to facilitate
13 medication synchronization by requiring health insurance plans
14 that provide prescription drug benefits to apply prorated daily
15 cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to part VI of article 10A to be
18 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

19 "§431:10A- Medication synchronization; proration;
20 dispensing fees. (a) Each individual or group accident and
21 health or sickness insurance policy that provides prescription



1 drug coverage in the State shall apply a prorated daily cost-
2 sharing rate to prescriptions that are dispensed by a network
3 pharmacy for less than a thirty-day supply for the purpose of
4 medication synchronization; provided that the patient requests
5 or agrees to less than a thirty-day supply.

6 (b) If medication is dispensed pursuant to subsection (a),
7 the insurer that provides prescription drug coverage shall:

8 (1) Not deny coverage for the dispensing of a maintenance
9 medication that is dispensed by a network pharmacy on
10 the basis that the dispensed amount is a partial
11 supply if the partial supply was dispensed pursuant to
12 subsection (a); and

13 (2) Authorize a pharmacy to override any denial codes
14 indicating that a prescription is being refilled too
15 soon.

16 (c) No policy providing prescription drug coverage shall
17 use payment structures incorporating prorated dispensing fees.
18 Dispensing fees for partially filled or refilled prescriptions
19 shall be paid in full for each prescription dispensed,
20 regardless of any prorated copay for the beneficiary or fee paid
21 for alignment services.



1 (d) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section,
2 no schedule II narcotic controlled substance listed in section
3 329-16 shall be eligible for medication synchronization.

4 (e) For purposes of this section, "medication
5 synchronization" means the coordination of medication refills
6 that are being dispensed by a single contracted pharmacy to a
7 patient taking two or more medications for one or more chronic
8 conditions so that the patient's medications are refilled on the
9 same schedule for a given time period."

10 SECTION 3. Chapter 432, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to part VI of article 1 to be
12 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

13 "§432:1- Medication synchronization; proration;
14 dispensing fees. (a) Each hospital and medical service plan
15 that provides prescription drug coverage in the State shall
16 apply a prorated daily cost-sharing rate to prescriptions that
17 are dispensed by a network pharmacy for less than a thirty-day
18 supply for the purpose of medication synchronization; provided
19 that the patient requests or agrees to less than a thirty-day
20 supply.



1 (b) If medication is dispensed pursuant to subsection (a),
2 the mutual benefit society that provides prescription drug
3 coverage shall:

4 (1) Not deny coverage for the dispensing of a maintenance
5 medication that is dispensed by a network pharmacy on
6 the basis that the dispensed amount is a partial
7 supply if the partial supply was dispensed pursuant to
8 subsection (a); and

9 (2) Authorize a pharmacy to override any denial codes
10 indicating that a prescription is being refilled too
11 soon.

12 (c) No plan providing prescription drug coverage shall use
13 payment structures incorporating prorated dispensing fees.
14 Dispensing fees for partially filled or refilled prescriptions
15 shall be paid in full for each prescription dispensed,
16 regardless of any prorated copay for the beneficiary or fee paid
17 for alignment services.

18 (d) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section,
19 no schedule II narcotic controlled substance listed in section
20 329-16 shall be eligible for medication synchronization.



1 (e) For purposes of this section, "medication
 2 synchronization" means the coordination of medication refills
 3 that are being dispensed by a single contracted pharmacy to a
 4 patient taking two or more medications for one or more chronic
 5 conditions so that the patient's medications are refilled on the
 6 same schedule for a given time period."

7 SECTION 4. Section 461-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 8 amended by amending the definition of "practice of pharmacy" to
 9 read as follows:

10 "'Practice of pharmacy" means:

- 11 (1) The interpretation and evaluation of prescription
 12 orders; the compounding, dispensing, and labeling of
 13 drugs and devices (except labeling by a manufacturer,
 14 packer, or distributor of nonprescription drugs and
 15 commercially legend drugs and devices); the
 16 participation in drug selection and drug utilization
 17 reviews; the proper and safe storage of drugs and
 18 devices and the maintenance of proper records
 19 therefor; the responsibility for advising when
 20 necessary or where regulated, of therapeutic values,
 21 content, hazards, and use of drugs and devices; the



1 interpretation and evaluation of prescription orders
2 to adjust the supply dispensed for purposes of
3 medication synchronization pursuant to section
4 431:10A- or section 432:1- ;

5 (2) Performing the following procedures or functions as
6 part of the care provided by and in concurrence with a
7 "health care facility" and "health care service" as
8 defined in section 323D-2, or a "pharmacy" or a
9 licensed physician or a licensed advanced practice
10 registered nurse with prescriptive authority, or a
11 "managed care plan" as defined in section 432E-1, in
12 accordance with policies, procedures, or protocols
13 developed collaboratively by health professionals,
14 including physicians and surgeons, pharmacists, and
15 registered nurses, and for which a pharmacist has
16 received appropriate training required by these
17 policies, procedures, or protocols:

18 (A) Ordering or performing routine drug therapy
19 related patient assessment procedures;

20 (B) Ordering drug therapy related laboratory tests;



- 1 (C) Initiating emergency contraception oral drug
- 2 therapy in accordance with a written
- 3 collaborative agreement approved by the board,
- 4 between a licensed physician or advanced practice
- 5 registered nurse with prescriptive authority and
- 6 a pharmacist who has received appropriate
- 7 training that includes programs approved by the
- 8 American Council of Pharmaceutical Education
- 9 (ACPE), curriculum-based programs from an ACPE-
- 10 accredited college of pharmacy, state or local
- 11 health department programs, or programs
- 12 recognized by the board of pharmacy;
- 13 (D) Administering drugs orally, topically, by
- 14 intranasal delivery, or by injection, pursuant to
- 15 the order of the patient's licensed physician or
- 16 advanced practice registered nurse with
- 17 prescriptive authority, by a pharmacist having
- 18 appropriate training that includes programs
- 19 approved by the ACPE, curriculum-based programs
- 20 from an ACPE-accredited college of pharmacy,



1 state or local health department programs, or
2 programs recognized by the board of pharmacy;
3 (E) Administering:
4 (i) Immunizations orally, by injection, or by
5 intranasal delivery, to persons eighteen
6 years of age or older by a pharmacist having
7 appropriate training that includes programs
8 approved by the ACPE, curriculum-based
9 programs from an ACPE-accredited college of
10 pharmacy, state or local health department
11 programs, or programs recognized by the
12 board of pharmacy;
13 (ii) Vaccines to persons between fourteen and
14 seventeen years of age pursuant to section
15 461-11.4; and
16 (iii) Human papillomavirus, Tdap (tetanus,
17 diphtheria, pertussis), meningococcal, and
18 influenza vaccines to persons between eleven
19 and seventeen years of age pursuant to
20 section 461-11.4;



1 (F) As authorized by the written instructions of a
2 licensed physician or advanced practice
3 registered nurse with prescriptive authority,
4 initiating or adjusting the drug regimen of a
5 patient pursuant to an order or authorization
6 made by the patient's licensed physician or
7 advanced practice registered nurse with
8 prescriptive authority and related to the
9 condition for which the patient has been seen by
10 the licensed physician or advanced practice
11 registered nurse with prescriptive authority;
12 provided that the pharmacist shall issue written
13 notification to the patient's licensed physician
14 or advanced practice registered nurse with
15 prescriptive authority or enter the appropriate
16 information in an electronic patient record
17 system shared by the licensed physician or
18 advanced practice registered nurse with
19 prescriptive authority, within twenty-four hours;



- 1 (G) Transmitting a valid prescription to another
- 2 pharmacist for the purpose of filling or
- 3 dispensing;
- 4 (H) Providing consultation, information, or education
- 5 to patients and health care professionals based
- 6 on the pharmacist's training and for which no
- 7 other licensure is required; or
- 8 (I) Dispensing an opioid antagonist in accordance
- 9 with a written collaborative agreement approved
- 10 by the board, between a licensed physician and a
- 11 pharmacist who has received appropriate training
- 12 that includes programs approved by the ACPE,
- 13 curriculum-based programs from an ACPE-accredited
- 14 college of pharmacy, state or local health
- 15 department programs, or programs recognized by
- 16 the board;
- 17 (3) The offering or performing of those acts, services,
- 18 operations, or transactions necessary in the conduct,
- 19 operation, management, and control of pharmacy; and
- 20 (4) Prescribing and dispensing contraceptive supplies
- 21 pursuant to section 461-11.6."



- 1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Medication; Insurance; Prescriptions; Synchronization

Description:

Requires health insurance and hospital and medical service plans that provide prescription drug benefits to apply prorated daily cost-sharing rates for prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies.
(HB2145 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

