

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows certified nurse practitioners and clinical nurses, who are approved to dispense prescription drugs, to delegate nonjudgmental dispensing functions to staff assistants under certain conditions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Dispensing of prescription drugs in busy primary care practices, especially rural areas
- Medication assistance programs for low income patients
- Medical Practice Act vs. Nurse Practice Act in dispensing of medications

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No Amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Board of Nursing grants the privilege of writing prescriptions for controlled substances listed in schedules II, III, N, IV, and V to Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNP) or Certified Clinical Nurses (CCN). Applicants must provide evidence of completion of a prescription drug dispensing training program jointly adopted by the Oregon Board of Nursing, and the State Board of Pharmacy to be granted the privilege of prescription drug writing.

Currently, CNPs and CCNs must personally hand prescriptions to patients when they are not being dispensed directly by a pharmacy or pharmacist. SB 605 would amend ORS 678.390 to include prescription drugs dispensing, under the supervision of a CNP, to staff assistants when the accuracy and completeness of the prescription is verified by the CNP.

The Medical Practice Act governing physicians contains the specification that “nonjudgmental dispensing functions may be delegated to staff assistants when the accuracy and completeness of the prescription is verified by the physician.” SB 605 would add the above mentioned language from the Medical Practice Act to the Nurse Practice Act allowing delegation dispensing functions.

The responsibility for educating the patient about their medication, the side effects and how the prescription must be taken, continues to be the responsibility of CNPs and CCNs, (ORS 678.385) however, to mandate that the prescriber personally hand the medication to the patient is not related to patient safety or effectiveness of treatment as long as all other standards of dispensing practice are being met.