

## House Committee on Health Care A Engrossed SB 1565

Testimony of Leonard Bergstein  
February 15, 2012

Co-Chairs Thompson, Greenlick and Members of the Committee

My name is Leonard Bergstein and I am testifying on behalf of my client ZoomCare in support of SB 1565.

ZoomCare is a leader in providing access to affordable, high quality, convenient healthcare in state of the art neighborhood clinics in Oregon and Seattle Washington. ZoomCare was founded in 2006 by Drs. David Sanders and Albert DiPiero. More information about ZoomCare is available at [www.zoomcare.com](http://www.zoomcare.com).

This bill addresses a modest but meaningful reform in the delivery of primary care by authorizing the dispensing of certain medications at drug outlets established to provide convenient and complete care – like the neighborhood clinics of ZoomCare.

Amendments have streamlined and improved the bill to insure collaboration around clinical teams of doctors, PAs and pharmacists. The bill's provisions maximize patient safety.

Highlights of the A Engrossed SB 1565, which passed the senate 27-1:

- ✓ Trained physician assistants would be authorized to dispense a limited formulary of non-narcotic drugs, under the supervision of physicians
- ✓ The Medical Board and Board of Pharmacy would jointly develop a drug dispensing training program
- ✓ Pharmacists would be retained by clinics to write policies and procedures for drug safety that would be approved by the Board of Pharmacy – the clinics would be approved by Board of Pharmacy as drug outlets
- ✓ The Oregon Medical Board would authorize PAs to dispense, according to their rules
- ✓ Current dispensing authority for PAs in underserved communities will not be affected

(Please see attached formulary of pre-packaged, non-narcotic medications that would be dispensed by trained PAs at ZoomCare clinics)

Thank you.

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# NORTHWEST STRATEGIES inc.

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Here is an explanation about the benefits of six of the common non-narcotic drugs that would be a part of a ZoomCare "formulary."

1. **Amoxicillin – Antibiotic for sinus and ear infection**

Amoxicillin is the first choice antibiotic for sinus infections and ear infections. It is low cost, it is narrow spectrum, NOT broad spectrum and therefore targets the right bacteria while minimizing the development of resistance. In January, ZoomCare cared for 817 sinus infections and ear infections. It can reduce the pain that keeps adults from work and kids from going to school.

2. **Cipro - For treating bladder infection**

Cipro (or Ciprofloxacin) is the first choice for bladder infections (or "UTI"s) in the Northwest based on local resistance patterns. A simple three-day course can rapidly speed the healing-- allowing the patient to return to work and stay productive. Early treatment with cipro can actually prevent a life-threatening condition called pyelonephritis which occurs when the bladder infection spreads to the kidneys. Pyelonephritis most often results when there is a delay in treatment for a simple bladder infection and is considered avoidable. Last month, ZoomCare treated over 280 cases of bladder infections.

3. **Hydroxyzine – For treating hives, bad itching, insomnia and panic**

Hydroxyzine is a strong antihistamine. Although it is similar in action to Benadryl, it is more effective, and it is used to treat hives, very bad itching, insomnia, and panic. It can be used to provide rapid relief for a variety of anxiety issues including flight phobia. Unlike the dangerous "benzo" class of medicines, hydroxyzine is not addictive and is not a controlled substance, and therefore does not pose a risk for diversion.

4. **Doxycycline – For skin infections, some sexually transmitted diseases and acne**

Doxycycline is an important antibiotic because it covers MRSA skin infections, the STD Chlamydia, and can treat a variety of other infections like pneumonia. Some dermatologists recommend treating adolescents with Doxycycline everyday for acne.

5. **Benzonatate – Non narcotic cough suppressant**

Benzonatate (Tessalon Perles) is a prescription-only cough suppressant. Unlike Robitussin with Codeine, it is not a narcotic and is not a controlled substance. It allows patients to get back to work with less cough, without falling asleep on the job as they might with codeine syrup.

6. **Penicillin – Antibiotic pills for strep throat**

Penicillin is still the tried and true treatment for strep throat. Nurses have been administering penicillin shot for strep throat for decades, but the pill version is the preferred method for adolescents and adults. With a confirmation of a strep throat in our office with our accurate diagnostic test, we can start the patient on the antibiotic before they leave the building. Time matters for strep, because patients are no longer contagious after 24 hours from the time they start the antibiotic.



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## PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

### ZOOMCARE DISPENSING FORMULARY EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 30, 2010

ACETAMINOPHEN E.S. 500MG CAPLETS #30  
ACYCLOVIR 800MG TABLETS #25  
AMOXICILLIN 500MG CAPSULES #60  
AMOX TR-POTASSIUM CLAVULANATE 875/125MG #20  
AMOXICILLIN 500MG CAPSULES #30  
AMOXICILLIN ORAL SUSP 250MG/5ML 150ML  
ANTIPYRINE/BENZOCAINE OTIC DROPS 15ML  
AUGMENTED BETAMETHASONE  
AZITHROMYCIN ORAL 200MG/5ML SUSP 15ML  
AZITHROMYCIN 250 MG TABLETS #6  
BENZONATATE 100MG CAPSULES #30  
CEPHALEXIN 500MG CAPSULES #30  
CIPRO 500MG TABLETS #14  
CIPRO 500MG TABLETS #20  
CIPRO 500MG TABLETS #6  
CLINDAMYCIN HCL 150MG CAPSULES #30  
CYCLOBENZAPRINE HCL 10MG TABLETS #21  
DOXYCYCLINE HYCLATE 100MG TABLET #20  
DIFLUCAN 150MG TABLET #1  
GUAIFENESIN AC EXPECTORANT 118ML  
HYDROXYZINE 25MG TABLETS #30  
IBUPROFEN 800MG TABLETS #30  
INDOMETHACIN 50MG CAPSULES #21  
METRONIDAZOLE 500MG TABLETS #14  
METRONIDAZOLE 500MG TABLETS #28  
NAPROXEN 500MG TABLETS #30  
NEO/POLYMYXIN/HC EAR SOLN 10ML  
OCUFLOX OPHTHALMIC 0.3% SOLUTION 5ML  
PENICILLIN V POTASSIUM 500MG TABLETS #30  
PHENAZOPYRIDINE HCL 200MG TABLETS #6  
PREDNISONE 10MG TABLETS #50  
PREDNISONE 20MG TABLETS #21  
PREDNISONE DOSEPACK 10MG TABS #21  
PROMETHAZINE HCL 25MG TABLETS #30  
SULFAMETHOXAZOLE & TRIMETHOPRIM DS TABS #14  
SULFAMETHOXAZOLE/TMP DS TAB #20  
TRAMADOL HCL 50MG TABLETS #30  
TOBRAMYCIN 0.3% 5ML BOTTLE  
TRIAMCINOLONE 0.1% CREAM 15G