



Written Testimony to the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee
Oregon State Senate

IN SUPPORT OF
Senate Bill 147

Relating to biological products – physician/pharmacist notification

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3:00 pm hearing

Submitted by:

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Dear Madam Chair and members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee,

The Oregon Urological Society, composed of Urologists from throughout the state, strongly urges you to support Senate Bill 147.

Urologists need to know what biological product their patient has been given – it is good for patients, it is good for their doctors, and it is good for care management.

In 2013, Oregon passed SB 460 that set forth in Oregon statute the process for the safe substitution of interchangeable biological products (*biosimilars*) once approved by the FDA. Unfortunately, one of the key provisions of that bill – **notifying the prescribing physician of the product substituted by the pharmacist** – was given a two-year sunset. SB 147 would make permanent this important provision.

With the FDA expected to approve the first copy of a biological product (*often referred to as a biosimilar*) later this year, and other approvals expected shortly thereafter including products designated as “interchangeable” (*meaning they can be substituted by a pharmacist without the intervention of a physician*), **it is imperative that this notification provision be reinstated this year.**

As you may know, Urologists often prescribe biological products. Knowing exactly what product our patients are taking – especially with biologics which are much more susceptible to varying degrees of success depending on the individual patient (this is not as true for generic drugs) – **is essential to providing high quality, cost effective care both in the short and long-term.**

We believe any burden possibly placed on the pharmacist in the rare instance when they must notify us via a call, fax or email (rather than through available electronic means) **far outweighs the benefits to our patients and our overall care delivery system.**

The one concern we have is the failure of the bill to define when a pharmacist must notify the physician of the product substituted. We would like to work with you to determine an appropriate time whether it be 5-days or some other number, but ultimately it needs to be defined

Please support and pass **SB 147**.

Your time and consideration is truly appreciated.