



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Monnes-Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Senator Kruse, Senate Committee on Health Care
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations

Date: May 18, 2015

Re: Support for HB 3343-A

OMA members support HB 3343-A as a bill that supports a standard of care for prescription contraceptive coverage that has been shown to effectively increase rates of contraceptive adherence and reduce a woman's risk of unintended pregnancy.

Under current dispensing regulations, a 30 or 90-day supply of contraception can be dispensed. Due to the frequency at which prescription contraceptives must be taken and then refilled, multiple refills on either a monthly or quarterly basis can be a barrier for our patients and results in the discontinuation of the prescribed contraceptive. Discontinuing any prescription that has been working for the patient, can have detrimental side effects or may not be as effective when re-started. For contraceptive prescriptions, dispensing a full year of the preferred contraceptive to the patient ensures effective use of the prescription for the patient while preventing unintended pregnancies.

For our members, a year's supply of the contraception eases the administrative burden for their office as it lessens the number of refill requests they must authorize. Patients who have a contraceptive prescription are required to be seen annually by their health care practitioner; over the course of the year, the practitioner must authorize up to 4 refills of the prescription. The patient initiates this process with the pharmacist, who then contacts the practitioner's office and working with the staff of the office, must wait for authorization to fill the prescription. Allowing up to 12-months of the contraception to be dispensed eliminates the extra work for all three parties.

We encourage your support of HB 3343-A.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,200 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.