



Adopt SB 93-A with -13 Amendment to Increase Patient Safety and Access

SB 93-A provides a unique opportunity to increase patient safety, access and convenience while at the same time creating fairness in the drug distribution system. The Oregon State Pharmacy Association and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists urge the adoption of SB93-A with the -13 amendment to remove the restriction to generic prescription drugs.

SB 93-A allows all pharmacies to provide a 90-day supply of generic prescription drugs for the management of chronic disease states as is currently allowed by payers for select networks or mail order. Patients should not be required to have multiple pharmacies for the convenience and profit of the payers to manage therapy that will last a lifetime. This bill levels the playing field for generics giving all pharmacies the same reimbursement rates and eliminates current practices that force patients to use multiple pharmacies.

SB93-A:

- Requires an initial dosage supply to ensure patient safety and effectiveness of treatment, prior to authorizing a 90-day supply.
- Allows a 90-day supply of generic prescription drugs, when appropriate, which can reduce multiple trips to the pharmacy and provide patients the flexibility to leave home for vacations or emergency situations without the stress and burden of needing refills every 30-days. This is particularly significant with the advent of medication synchronization.
- Eliminates the current practice of allowing only mail order or preferred network pharmacies to provide 90-day supply. The current practice limits patient choice and, if the patient has a preferred local pharmacy or pharmacist, fragments therapy as health providers attempt to piece together a complete understanding of a patient's current drug therapy and adherence.

However, restricting the 90-day supply to generics that in many instances are already available for \$10 at several pharmacy chains is not an adequate solution but merely a continuation of the current problem. According to Express Scripts, the nation's largest Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM), there are 2,000 brand name drugs with no generic alternative which means that for many Oregonians, SB 93-A will result in continued fragmented care and limits to patient access.

*It is important that SB 93-A be amended to allow the prescription of brand name drugs as well as generic drugs which will truly reduce fragmented patient care for patients with chronic disease. Health providers and each patient's healthcare team are best prepared to make drug, disease, and patient specific therapeutic decisions regarding the appropriateness of 90-day supply. **Please support SB 93-A with the -13 amendment to enhance safety and access for patients.***