

SB 841

Relating to prescription drug refills

Medication synchronization is the process of lining all of a patient's medications to be refilled on the same day, allowing patients to make a single trip to the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions each month, making it convenient to stay on track with their long term medications. Besides benefitting patients and pharmacies, medication synchronization can help reduce overall health care costs by making a dent in the costs associated with non-adherence which are estimated to be as high as \$290 billion a year in the United States.

SB 841 requires health plans to reimburse the cost of prescription drugs dispensed in accordance with the plan's synchronization policy. The bill also requires health plans to reimburse, fully, the dispensing fee for partially filled or refilled prescription drugs. It exempts prescriptions when unit-of-use packaging cannot be synchronized, drugs are controlled substances, or drugs have a high risk of diversion. It exempts from the bill's provisions any prepaid group practice health plan with at least 200,000 enrollees in Oregon. It requires the Oregon Health Authority to implement a synchronization policy for the dispensing of prescription drugs to recipients of medical assistance who are not enrolled in a coordinated care organization.

The amendment reflects the Subcommittee's recommendation to approve \$850,000 in Other Funds limitation for the Public Employees Benefit Board and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board within OHA to cover the cost of carrying out the provisions of the bill.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 841 be amended by the -A8 amendment and be reported out do pass as amended.