

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Health Care

MEASURE: SB 505
CARRIER: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/09/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/02, 03/09

Vote:
Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that, from October 1 through March 1, each hospital should offer immunizations against influenza virus to patients 65 years and up. Specifies that offers are based on availability of influenza vaccine and recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Requires Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Codifying what most hospitals provide
- Data showing necessity
- Standardizing operation
- Informed consent
- Effectiveness of flu shot in elderly population

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Influenza, also known as the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus, which can range from mild to severe, and in the worst cases can result in hospitalization or death. The flu can exacerbate existing chronic health problems such as heart disease, asthma, and liver disorders. It can lead to complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and sinus infections. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that adults 65 years of age and older are at higher risk for flu-related complications than other populations and recommends flu vaccines to protect this age group. In most flu seasons, 90 percent of flu-related deaths and between 50 and 60 percent of flu-related hospitalizations occur in people 65 years and up. The Oregon Health Authority reports that in 2013, 56 percent of men and 57 percent of women 65 years and up received the influenza vaccination. This falls short of the Health People 2020 target of 90 percent for this age group.