

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/01, 04/20

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to compile information on the dangers associated with adrenal insufficiency, how to identify a person suffering an adrenal crisis and the types of medications used to treat adrenal insufficiency. Requires OHA to disseminate information to health care professionals and the public. Directs OHA to consider most effective manner of providing information to emergency medical service providers and health care professionals who work in emergency departments.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Codification of medical evaluation and treatment for a specific disease
- Physicians and emergency medical technicians knowledge on how to provide proper patient treatment and care
- Risk of death if adrenal crisis occurs in places that lack the appropriate injection
- Oregon Medical Board establishes scope of practice
- Low cost and effectiveness of injection
- Rarity of adrenal insufficiency disease

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Adrenal insufficiency is an endocrine or hormonal disorder that occurs when the adrenal glands (located above the kidneys) do not produce enough of certain hormones. Primary adrenal insufficiency, also known as Addison's disease, occurs when the adrenal glands are damaged and cannot produce enough cortisol. Secondary adrenal insufficiency occurs when the pituitary gland (located at the base of the brain) fails to produce enough adrenocorticotropin, a hormone that stimulates the adrenal glands to produce cortisol. This can lead to shrinkage of the adrenal glands. Typical causes of primary adrenal insufficiency are autoimmune disorders and tuberculosis. Secondary adrenal insufficiency is more common and is related to stoppage of corticosteroid medication and surgical removal of pituitary tumors.

Hormones have functions such as regulating blood pressure, metabolism, digestion and stress. Common symptoms of adrenal insufficiency are chronic fatigue, loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal pain and muscle weakness. Other symptoms may include depression, vomiting, headache, sweating, craving salty foods, low blood pressure and irregular or absent menstrual periods. A person is considered to be in adrenal crisis when they experience symptoms of sudden and severe pain, dehydration and loss of consciousness. Corticosteroid injections or oral doses

of a mineralocorticoid hormone are used as treatment to replace or substitute hormones that the adrenal glands fail to make.