

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/29/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/06, 05/29

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Clem, Greenlick, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Nosse, Weidner

Nays: 3 - Buehler, Hayden, Lively

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current hospital practices
- Standardizing operation
- Informed consent
- Elderly population more vulnerable to flu and side-effects

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 this age group. 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 Healthy People 2020 target of 90 percent for this age group.