



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick  
Chair,  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St NE, H-493  
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Rob Nosse  
Vice-Chair,  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St NE, H-472  
Salem, OR 97301

sent electronically to: Rep.MitchGreenlick@state.or.us; Rep.RobNosse@state.or.us

**RE: HB 4105 – dispensing of interchangeable biosimilars**

Dear Chairman Greenlick and Vice-Chair Nosse:

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance) is a coalition of national medical specialty societies representing more than 100,000 physicians and surgeons. We are dedicated to the development of sound health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. The undersigned member organizations of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine write in regards to House Bill 4105 regarding the dispensing of interchangeable biosimilar products and urge that the committee consider and advance the bill.

The Alliance has closely followed the development of federal policy related to biosimilars and the safety considerations that should be taken into account as more biosimilar versions of existing biologic medicines become a new treatment option for our patients. **Importantly, HB 4105 addresses key policy issues to ensure patient safety is preserved, including physician authority to prevent substitutions and ensuring that the treating physician is notified if another version of the biologic medicine is substituted for the version prescribed by the doctor.**

Specifically, we appreciate that HB 4105 does not allow substitution if the *“prescribing practitioner has not designated on the prescription that substitution is prohibited”*. Also, we support that the bill requires notifying the prescribing practitioner of substitution *“not later than five calendar days after the dispensing of a biological product...”*.

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Mohs Surgery • American Gastroenterological Association • American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography • American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations • Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
National Association of Spine Specialists • Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

The practice of automatic substitution that is seen with generic drugs is not entirely appropriate for biosimilar products given that they are not simply “generic” versions of biologics. Physicians need to know what medicine their patient receives and therefore, the prescribing physician should be notified whenever a patient’s biologic medicine is substituted. This will help to ensure the accuracy of patient medical records and identify any issues should there be an adverse event.

Advances in medical treatment have transformed the way we fight certain diseases. Biologics, and biosimilars, will continue to be an important treatment option for patients. The Alliance of Specialty Medicine appreciates that HB 4105 ensures appropriate safeguards and urges your support of the bill.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
North American Spine Society  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions