



SB423 – Dispensing Controlled Substances by Physician Assistants

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA) and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP) **oppose SB 423**. The bill would reverse the provision in current law that prohibits Physician Assistants from dispensing Schedule I-IV controlled substances. Relaxing the regulation of controlled substances in the current opioid crisis is not in the public interest and will not increase the safety of health care provided by primary providers such as Physician Assistants.

OSPA and OSHP oppose this proposed change for several reasons:

- Dispensing by Physicians and Physician Assistants to the patient is not reported to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) database.
 - These dispensed controlled substances would not appear on the PDMP profiles available to prescribers and Emergency Physicians to improve controlled substance use.
 - Current efforts to improve the completeness of the database and to increase the use of the PDMP by primary care providers would be compromised by these undocumented prescriptions. (HB 2517)
- Creating a unique distribution channel for controlled substances that conflicts with potential legislation limiting the dispensing of opioid prescriptions to 7 days. (HB 2114 and SB 270)
- OSPA and OSHP had recommended the prohibition of controlled substance dispensing at the time of the original legislation in 2011 allowing Physician Assistants to dispense certain medications, and there has been no substantial change our position
 - The consultation of a trained pharmacist in the safe and effective use of all medications, especially controlled substances is of tremendous value to patients, and offers an important safety check for all prescriptions.
- The addition of controlled substance record keeping, inventory, and annual inspection would place an additional regulatory burden on the Board of Pharmacy and Supervising Physician Dispensing Drug Outlets.
 - The distribution of controlled substances is under the regulation of the Drug Enforcement Agency, adding additional regulatory burden to these Drug Outlets.

In light of these concerns, OSPA and OSHP urges your opposition to SB 423.