

Testimony, HB 2527
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Chair Greenlick, Representative Buehler, and Committee members;

Upon passage of the 2015 law increasing access to hormonal birth control therapies for Oregon women via directing Oregon pharmacists to prescribe oral hormonal therapies, pharmacies and pharmacists have launched into implementation statewide.

Serving the needs of the state in this capacity required development and provision of an educational course, developed by OSU College of Pharmacy faculty who are experts in women's care. This course, guided in design by the legislatively mandated advisory committee to the Oregon Board of Pharmacy, certifies pharmacists to become enrolled and credentialed by the Oregon Health Authority, to prescribe hormonal birth control therapies to women in Oregon.

Following passage of the bill into law, work began immediately with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy developing the rules and framework for provision of this service, which informed the build of the certification course and the subsequent collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority to develop the necessary components for credentialing and enrollment to serve Oregon's Medicaid population via Oregon's CCO networks. American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) physicians served on the committee and were invaluable in their guidance.

Most chain pharmacies have engaged in certifying their pharmacists to prescribe, with four of the largest chains providing the service to cash paying patients immediately upon course completion and moving to credential and enroll their pharmacists via the OHA. We anticipate the first Oregon Medicaid/CCO billing to process this week which paves the pathway for payment from commercial plans.

The course registration platform allows for tracking of pharmacist progress through the course, monitoring of exam scores, provision of extensive interactive and video educational components, two years of continuous re-entry into the course, push out of therapeutic or other updates which assures ongoing provision of the most up-to-date clinical information, as well as provision of a password protected searchable database for payers to determine pharmacist's certification.

I am grateful for the partnership and support of the Oregon Health Authority's department of credentialing and enrollment, Oregon State University's Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) department, the corporate and regional management from Albertsons/Safeway, Costco, Rite Aid and Fred Meyer, and the leadership provided by the Oregon Board of Pharmacy. Many individuals have worked in small teams and in ad hoc committees to successfully implement this law. This committee's leadership has assured that access to hormonal birth control therapies are far more accessible to Oregon women.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Clark, RPh.