



Help Enhance Access to Quality Healthcare – Support HB 2397-A

Pharmacist involvement in prescribing immunizations has arguably been one of the most impactful contributions to public health. Similarly, passage of legislation permitting pharmacists to prescribe hormonal birth control and, recently, naloxone dramatically enhances cost effective access to medications that will significantly influence public health in Oregon.

OSPA and OSHP ask for your support of HB 2397 to allow the State Board of Pharmacy, overseen by the Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee, to authorize pharmacist prescribing in specific situations ‘by rule’. Adoption of this legislation will eliminate the current ‘one drug at a time’ approach by providing an inter-professional, streamlined procedure to effectively engage pharmacists to meet healthcare concerns of Oregonians.

The proposed legislation would:

- Revise the inter-professional Public Health Advisory Committee’s authority, allowing it to advise the State Board of Pharmacy on the approval of rules to guide pharmacist prescribing in specific circumstances (and change the name to the Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee).
- Allow for the approval ‘by rule’ of pharmacist prescribing for a specific list of drugs, devices, and laboratory tests necessary to address public health needs or post-diagnostic disease management.
- Increase patient access to non-diagnostic therapies important to public health and pharmacist management of post-diagnostic disease management in all areas of the state.

The rationale for HB 2397 is clear:

- The Oregon Legislature has already recognized the critical role of pharmacists as healthcare providers with the passage for HB 2028 in 2015. Separate legislative sessions have sequentially approved pharmacist prescribing of vaccines, birth control and naloxone to meet health care needs.
- Requests by healthcare teams for approval of pharmacist prescribing of non-diagnostic therapies (i.e., travel medicine and smoking cessation) and medications, tests or devices required to manage diseases following a diagnosis (i.e., naloxone or availability of glucometers) will continue.

Pharmacists have demonstrated their *willingness* and *ability* to enhance access to cost effective, high quality health management. The role of pharmacists and opportunities to enhance the role of other practitioners through pharmacist involvement continues to expand. It is time for a more proactive and timely process to continue to meet healthcare needs of patients across the state. **Approval of HB 2397-A achieves that goal.**