

HB 2644 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 4/11, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that the most effective procedure be used in the administration of vitamin K to newborn infants.

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue: No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purpose of administering vitamin K supplement to newborn infants
- Vitamin K deficiency and internal bleeding in infants including late onset of vitamin K deficiency bleeding (VKDB)
- Whether the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has approved an oral or tablet form of vitamin K to administer to newborns
- Efficacy and clinical effectiveness of vitamin K supplement for newborns; oral administration vs. intramuscular injection
- Oregon history on why the state's Vitamin K protocol requirement was placed in statute rather than administrative rule
- Parental rights and informed medical decision-making

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vitamin K shot is essential in preventing serious bleeding in newborns. For all newborns, vitamin K is necessary for blood to clot, which prevents severe bleeding and blood loss. After birth, however, there is little vitamin K in breast milk and breast fed newborns can have a vitamin K deficiency for several weeks following birth. Infant formula often has added vitamin K, but formula-fed infants may have low levels of vitamin K for several days after birth. With low levels of vitamin K, some infants are susceptible to severe bleeding - sometimes into the brain, causing significant brain damage. To prevent bleeding, infants are routinely given vitamin K as an intramuscular injection.

House Bill 2644-A requires health care professionals to administer vitamin K to newborn infants by the most effective means.