

SB 9 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARYCarrier: Sen. Courtney, Sen.
Linthicum**Senate Committee On Health Care**

Action Date: 02/13/19
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Fagan, Linthicum, Monnes Anderson
Exc: 1 - Knopp
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Brian Nieubuurt, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits pharmacists to prescribe and dispense emergency refills of insulin and associated insulin-related devices and supplies. Defines "insulin" and "insulin-related devices and supplies." Limits emergency prescription to lesser of 30-day supply or smallest available package. Limits person to three emergency refills per calendar year. Establishes training, assessment, documentation, and information requirements for pharmacists dispensing emergency refills. Requires State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules. Requires health benefit plans and medical assistance programs to provide payment or reimbursement for emergency refills of insulin and associated insulin-related devices and supplies. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Previous legislation (HB 2397 (2017))
- Risks of being without necessary insulin
- Availability of grant to help pay for training
- Application to out-of-state visitors

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies authority of pharmacists to prescribe and dispense emergency refills of insulin, insulin-related devices, and supplies. Defines "insulin" and "insulin-related devices and supplies." Limits emergency prescription to lesser of 30-day supply or smallest available package. Limits person to three emergency refills per calendar year. Clarifies training, assessment, documentation, and information requirements for emergency refills.

BACKGROUND:

In its 2015 *Oregon Diabetes Report*, the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division estimated that diabetes affects approximately 287,000 adult Oregonians, or nearly 1 in 10. The prevalence of diabetes has also steadily increased, more than doubling since 1990 and accounting for 3.5 percent of deaths in Oregon in 2012. Insulin therapy is used in the treatment of diabetes to help keep a person's blood sugar within the target range. Failure to appropriately manage blood sugar levels can have serious health consequences, including impacting the heart, kidneys, and eyes. Current Board of Pharmacy rules allow pharmacists to use their professional judgement in permitting them to give emergency refills of prescription drugs (OAR 855-041-1120).

Senate Bill 9-A allows pharmacists to dispense emergency refills of insulin, insulin-related devices, and supplies for limited circumstances.