

HB 2942 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/6, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority and coordinated care organizations (CCOs) to reimburse pharmacists and pharmacies in the same manner as other health care providers for the prescription, dispensation, and administration of preexposure (PrEP) and post-exposure (PEP) prophylactic antiretroviral therapies. It also requires OHA and CCOS to reimburse the service provided by the pharmacist. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Disproportionate impact of HIV.
- Challenges accessing PrEP and PEP medications.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) are medications that people at risk for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) take to prevent getting HIV from sex or injection drug use. According to HIV.gov, when taken as prescribed, PrEP can reduce the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99% and from intravenous drug use by 74%. There are currently FDA-approved oral PrEP medications that must be taken daily; there is also one long-acting injectable form of PrEP that has received FDA approval.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is a short course of HIV medications taken very soon after a possible exposure to HIV to prevent the virus from taking hold in the body. In order to be effective, PEP medications need to be started within 72 hours of exposure.

In 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2958, allowing pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer both PrEP and PEP therapies. The measure also required health insurers to cover the cost of prescription, dispensation, and administration of PrEP and PEP therapies, including patient consultation by the prescribing pharmacist.

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