

HCS SCS SB 716 -- PUBLIC HEALTH

SPONSOR: Brown (Scharnhorst)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 11 to 0.

Beginning July 1, 2015, this bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to transport collected, donated umbilical cord blood samples to a nonprofit umbilical cord blood bank located in St. Louis City in existence as of the effective date of the bill. The collection sites must only be those facilities designated and trained by the blood bank in the collection and handling of umbilical cord blood specimens.

The bill requires each hospital licensed under Chapter 197, RSMo, to offer, prior to discharge and with the approval of the attending physician, immunizations against influenza virus to all inpatients 65 years of age or older between October 1 and March 1 of each year in accordance with the latest recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention unless contraindicated for the patient and contingent upon the availability of the vaccine.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that a lot of readmissions are the result of influenza or pneumonia. Most hospitals offer flu vaccines to anyone 65 years old or older during flu season already; however, codifying it as a requirement ensures that it happens regularly in all hospitals. The bill requires any action to be in accordance with the CDC recommendations so more people are on the same page and all hospitals handle similar situations in the same manner.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Brown; Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder; and Missouri State Medical Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.