

HCS HBs 2045 & 2316 -- PHARMACIES

SPONSOR: Morris

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health Insurance by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee Insurance by a vote of 11 to 0.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE (Section 376.379, RSMo)

The bill requires health carriers or managed care plans offering health benefit plans with prescription drug coverage to offer medication synchronization services that aligns prescription refill dates. Charging more than the normal co-payment is prohibited for quantities less than prescribed.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS (Section 376.388)

This bill requires each contract between a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) and a pharmacy or pharmacy's contracting representative to include sources utilized to determine maximum allowable cost and update such pricing information at least every seven days. A PBM must maintain a procedure to eliminate products from the maximum allowable cost (MAC) list of drugs or modify maximum allowable cost pricing within seven days if the drugs do not meet the standards as provided in the bill.

A PBM must reimburse pharmacies for drugs subject to maximum allowable cost pricing based upon pricing information which has been updated within seven days. A drug must not be placed on a MAC list unless there are at least two therapeutically equivalent multi-source generic drugs, or at least one generic drug available from only one manufacturer and is generally available for purchase from national or regional wholesalers.

All contracts must include a process to internally appeal, investigate, and resolve disputes regarding MAC pricing as provided in the bill. Appeals must be upheld if the pharmacy being reimbursed for the drug on the MAC list was not reimbursed according to the provisions of the bill or the drug does not meet the requirements for being placed on the MAC list.

This bill is similar to SB 908 (2016), HB 198 (2015) and HB 780 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is for people who take a lot of medications each month. The bill allows a patient who sees a doctor once a year but must make multiple trips to a pharmacy each month to pick up medication to treat chronic diseases.

Pharmacies can long fill or short fill a prescription to synchronize medications to a fill time that is best for the patient. Synchronization can cut down on hospital visits because it helps a patient to be compliant with his or her medication regimen. For many Missourians, visiting the pharmacy is not just a quick trip to the corner, it's a trip to the city to find an in-network pharmacy.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morris; Pfizer, Inc.; Missouri Association Of Rural Health Clinics; Michael Grite, Bristol Myers Squibb; Missouri Academy Of Family Physicians; Missouri Nurses Association; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Retailers Association; and Missouri Grocers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.