New Oregon Law Designates Pharmacists as Healthcare Providers; Aligns with Other West Coast States and Continues Healthcare Reform Efforts in Oregon

Through negotiation and collaboration by the state pharmacy organizations in Oregon, Governor Kate Brown has signed into law House Bill 2028, establishing provider status for Oregon pharmacists. Expanding opportunities and venues for pharmacists to meet critical patient needs, the enactment of this law completes the west coast continuum of provider status - solidifying California, Washington and now Oregon as leaders in healthcare policy.

Recent reports from the U.S. Surgeon General’s Office and the National Governors Association have highlighted the contributions of pharmacists. “Pharmacists play an essential role in assuring access to quality, cost-effective care,” said Cory Huot, Chair of the Oregon State Pharmacy Coalition and a leader in the Clinical Pharmacy Services movement in Oregon. “Pharmacists are a critical part of the healthcare team, and have the education, the expertise, and now the opportunity, to make a difference in the health and wellness of all Oregonians.”

The practice of clinical pharmacy is dedicated to optimizing medication treatments, promoting disease prevention and wellness, and assisting in post-diagnostic disease management. With HB 2028, groups of doctors and pharmacists can now design and utilize collaborative agreements to increase access to pharmacist care and decrease costs for patients. The legislation also tasks the Oregon Health Authority, in consultation with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy, to establish statewide protocols for pharmacist delivery of services such as smoking cessation and travel health services.

Good for Oregonians, this bill ensures that reimbursement is authorized for services provided, allowing for expansion of pharmacy clinical services and encouraging an enhanced patient experience.

HB 2028 was enacted on June 10, 2015 and went into effect immediately upon passage.

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