

HCR 164

Measure Title: REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISH AND CONVENE A MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION.

Report Title: Medication Synchronization Working Group; Department of Health

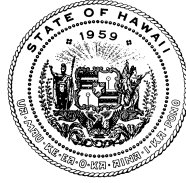
Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): BELATTI, EVANS, KOBAYASHI, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, OSHIRO, TODD



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR164
REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISH AND
CONVENE A MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION WORKING GROUP TO
EXPLORE AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION.**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: April 12, 2017 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health.

2 **Department Testimony:** The concept of medication synchronization appears promising and
3 may be of benefit to patients for whom the Department of Health is direct care provider or for
4 whom care is coordinated through a case management or provider agency. Thus, the department
5 is interested in the findings to be proposed by a working group as it relates to patient care.

6 The department is unable to comment on other specific issues requested by HCR164 with respect
7 to 90-day fills, pharmacist dispensing fees, patient copays, and continuing education
8 requirements.

9 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

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The Hawaii Pharmacists Association supports HCR164.

The management and treatment of patients with chronic diseases accounts for a huge portion of America's total healthcare cost each year, yet less than 50% of those people on chronic medications adhere to their prescription therapy. Prescription medications are a critical tool to prevent negative patient outcomes which results in healthcare cost-savings. But what good is a tool if you do not use it? This is one of the major problems that our healthcare system is facing. Patients are prescribed medications but they only take them when they feel like it or when they remember, if even at all. There are countless barriers to why a patient does not take their medication: costs, time, transportation, cognitive function, etc.

Medication synchronization creates an appointment-based environment where the pharmacist is able to help manage the patient's medications. The pharmacist will be able to review and refill everything that a patient is prescribed and can contact the doctor if any issues arise. All of this is done in between the patient's scheduled pick up date so that it does not interfere with patient care. The medication synchronization model is very proactive compared to the more reactive model that pharmacy practices today. By preparing the patients medications ahead of time we as pharmacists can address side effect, drug interaction, insurance, and any other issues that may prevent a patient from picking up their medication. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to chat!

Mahalo,
Patrick Uyemoto, Pharm.D.
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Hawaii Pharmacists Association
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DATE: April 11, 2017

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Submitted Via Capitol Website

RE: **HCR 164 – Requesting that the Department of Health Establish and Convene a Medication Synchronization Working Group to Explore and Propose Legislation.**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Conference Room: 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates stores at more than 8,200 locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In Hawaii, Walgreens now has 20 stores on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii.

Walgreens **strongly supports** HCR 164, which would establish a working group tasked to gather information about medication synchronization practices across the nation with the goal of formulating a medication synchronization program for the state of Hawaii.

Medication synchronization can improve patient health by simplifying therapeutic regimens. Many patients who require long-term maintenance medications miss doses of their regular medications. Studies show that when the timing of medications is coordinated, medication adherence rates rise because patients can pick up their prescriptions on a single day.

There are 19 states that have approved medication synchronization, of which 14 states are poised to pass medication synchronization legislation. HCR 164 would create a working group tasked to review and recommend best practices learned from these other jurisdictions, with the goal of ultimately drafting proposed legislation to create standards for medication synchronization in Hawaii. Walgreens would be pleased to participate on the working group, and looks forward to contributing to the discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
R. Brian Tsujimura
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima
Matthew W. Tsujimura

Times Pharmacy supports HCR164.

The management and treatment of patients with chronic diseases accounts for a huge portion of America's total healthcare cost each year, yet less than 50% of those people on chronic medications adhere to their prescription therapy. Prescription medications are a critical tool to prevent negative patient outcomes which results in healthcare cost-savings. But what good is a tool if you do not use it? This is one of the major problems that our healthcare system is facing. Patients are prescribed medications but they only take them when they feel like it or when they remember, if even at all. There are countless barriers to why a patient does not take their medication: costs, time, transportation, cognitive function, etc.

Times Pharmacy wants to do everything we can to help our patients be healthy and increase their quality of life. Medication synchronization is one step towards helping patients better manage and understand their medications. Medication synchronization creates an appointment-based system where patients will only have to pick up their medications once a month. The benefits of medication synchronization always focus around the patient but what most people do not realize is that it also helps to streamline the pharmacy's workflow. This allows pharmacists to spend more quality time educating and counseling their patients. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to chat!

Mahalo,
Patrick Uyemoto, Pharm.D.
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Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

April 12, 2017
9:00 am
Conference Room 229

Re: HCR 164 Requesting That The Department Of Health Establish and Convene A Medication Synchronization Working Group To Explore And Propose Legislation

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 164 which requests the Department of Health to create a Medication Synchronization task force to explore and propose legislation.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this resolution, and respectfully requests to be added to the membership of this task force.

As Hawaii's largest HMO, Kaiser Permanente operates and manages its own pharmacies for the delivery of pharmacy medication-related needs directly to its enrollees. As a uniquely integrated health care system that provides its own pharmacy medication therapy management, we believe Kaiser Permanente brings a different perspective to the medical synchronization system for patients. For this reason, we request to be named as a member of this task force.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
April 12, 2017 at 9:00am

by
Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP
Dean

UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP)

HCR 164 - REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ESTABLISH AND
CONVENE A MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE
AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee:

My name is Carolyn Ma and I am the Dean for the Daniel K. Inouye College of
Pharmacy (DKICP). As Dean, I fully support this bill that will allow for a working group
to develop a program for medication synchronization and address issues related to
patient medication adherence, refill and education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 164.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:43 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: rontthi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR164 on Apr 12, 2017 09:00AM*

HCR164

Submitted on: 4/11/2017

Testimony for CPH on Apr 12, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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