



MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

June 9, 2015

RE: Testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 150 on Medication Synchronization

To the members of the Senate Insurance Committee:

On behalf of the Michigan Pharmacists Association, I would like to indicate our support for the S-2 substitute for SB 150. Providing provisions that would allow a patient access to medication synchronization services without incurring disproportionate cost-sharing will potentially increase the utilization of these services, thus improving medication adherence in vulnerable populations such as the elderly.

Medication synchronization allows for medication fills to be aligned so that patients taking multiple medications for chronic conditions can pick up all of their medications during the same trip to the pharmacy. By decreasing the number of times a patient must return to the pharmacy, medication synchronization increases the likelihood that a patient will be compliant because they have greater access to their medication at appropriate times. This is particularly true for patients who have transportation issues, as they may only be able to go to the pharmacy on a limited number of occasions.

A 2014 National Community Pharmacists Association survey finds that one in eight ongoing prescription medication users are enrolled in a medication synchronization program, with broadly positive results: Eighty-three percent call it very or even extremely helpful in managing their refills, and 74 percent say it's highly helpful in improving their overall medication adherence.

Any efforts to improve access to medications and medication adherence through regulatory intervention are strongly supported by our membership. Not only do these interventions improve patient satisfaction and health care outcomes, but they have the potential to decrease health care costs as well. The overall national cost of medication nonadherence is estimated to be as high as \$290 billion, indicating that efforts to curb this issue could have significant long-term impact on the health care system.

Given these considerations, we strongly urge your support of SB 150. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Association.

Sincerely,

Eric Roath, Pharm.D.
Director of Professional Practice
Michigan Pharmacists Association
Eric@MichiganPharmacists.org