



hen house
your pharmacy



February 16, 2015

Dear Chairman Schwab and members of the committee:

As a Kansas pharmacist, I write this letter in strong support of the prescription drug fill and refills legislation, HB 2176. **This bill would allow Kansas residents to work with their community pharmacy to synchronize their prescription medications to be picked up on a single day each month. Medication synchronization can improve adherence by 22-24% across a range of chronic conditions.** What may seem like a simple issue has tremendous benefits to the health of thousands of patients suffering from costly diseases like diabetes, heart failure, and COPD among many others.

Providing the option for medication synchronization is not only convenient for the patient by limiting trips to the pharmacy, but it has also **proven to increase medication adherence. Adherence has long-term benefits of improved health outcomes and potentially lowering overall healthcare costs.** As a practicing community pharmacist, I have seen firsthand the impressive impact of this service. Our pharmacies currently provide medication synchronization services to 1200 Kansas residents. Patients are able to have their questions answered regarding medications their monthly medication appointment where pharmacists also work to remove patient barriers to adherence. These patients now take their medications daily as prescribed and many of them share stories with us about **improvement in markers of their chronic disease like control of their blood sugar or blood pressure levels.**

From the pharmacy's perspective, it is incredibly important to remove as many barriers to medication synchronization as possible. **When attempting to synchronize a patient's medications, many prescriptions are deemed "refill too soon" by the insurer. Another common barrier is that patients are often charged a full month's co pay for just a partial fill to synchronize their medications.** Even before the term medication synchronization came to the forefront of pharmacy practice, patients have asked to pick up all of their medications on the same day. I, in coordination with the rest of my pharmacy, worked for more than 6 months to get a patient's medications all on the same day of pickup to simplify the lives of his caregivers. It took so long because the patient was charged the full copay by his insurance no matter how many pills were in each refill, and on his limited income, could not afford to spend an increased amount on medications in a month. We must work to remove these barriers for our patients. This example was one of many that we saw in our practice of families wanting or needing simplified medication refill schedules. Beginning in 2014, CMS took a meaningful step forward in its commitment to improving medication adherence by making it easier for Medicare Part D patients to have their prescription medications synchronized. Let's take a similar step by passing this bill in Kansas.

HB 2176 makes medication synchronization available for any patient, practitioner and pharmacist, while also ensuring that anyone seeking to have their medication synchronized cannot be denied or charged more by a health plan. Synchronization makes it much more likely that patients will stick to their prescription schedule. Medication synchronization provides a simple, common sense approach to improving the health and well-being of people with chronic illness and for those who care for them. We must strive to protect residents of Kansas from delays and administrative barriers that undermine access to timely treatment. I truly appreciate you doing your part to help pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,
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