



August 3, 2016

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Chairman
Senate Committee on Health
Capitol Office
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2050 – Medication Synchronization

Dear Senator Hernandez:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) recognizes the value of medication synchronization as one tool that may improve adherence. However, we urge you to oppose Assembly Bill 2050 because it would mandate synchronization of medications without the benefit of industry input and a study of existing programs. It also *mandates* coverage for medication synchronization if a pharmacy or patient believes it is in the patient's best interest. A benefit is not covered merely based on an agreement between a pharmacy and a patient; rather, a benefit is covered if it meets the criteria specified under the terms of the patient's health benefit contract. AMCP opposes legislation that mandates medication synchronization programs and requires a specific government framework as an unnecessary barrier to best practices that are currently underway.

AMCP is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to improve health care for all. The Academy's nearly 8,000 members, with 1295 living and practicing in California, develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit.

The language in Sections 1367.248(b)(1) and 10123.28 (b)(1) is of particular concern because it would require coverage based on a pharmacy or patient's decision. While AMCP supports the role of the pharmacist in assessing appropriate medication therapy and dispensing systems for patients, in order to be a covered benefit that assessment must be in accord with the patient's health benefit contract.

AMCP strongly supports continued implementation of voluntary medication synchronization programs and the best practices that are currently being developed by pharmacies and insurers. One pilot program sponsored by the Pharmacy Quality Alliance, Inc. (PQA) that included more than 600 pharmacies, began in February 2013 and recently concluded. This pilot used an appointment-based model that arranged refills of chronic medications to fall upon the same appointment date each month. PQA plans to release its findings soon on changes in medication adherence rates in individuals with complex chronic conditions.

100 North Pitt Street | Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314
800 827 2627 | 703 683 8416
Fax 703 683 8417
www.amcp.org

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views and urge the Committee to oppose Assembly Bill 2050. If you have any questions, you may contact AMCP's California advocacy leader Stephanie Lu, PharmD at stephanie.lu@blueshieldca.com or AMCP's Director of Legislative Affairs, Regina Benjamin, at (703) 683-8416 or rbenjamin@amcp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cantrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer