



AB 2418: Promoting Patient Medication Adherence

Summary:

Poor medication adherence is a major barrier to achieving better patient health outcomes. AB 2418 provides patients with a choice between picking up their medications at a local pharmacy or by having their medications delivered through mail order programs. In addition, this bill streamlines the medication refill process by making it more convenient for patients to pick up all their medications on one trip to the pharmacy and allows patients who run out of eye drops to obtain an early refill.

Background:

Approximately 50% of patient with chronic health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes do not take their medications as prescribed. Patients that do not take their medications regularly are at a greater risk of developing poor health outcomes and hospitalization. More importantly, 20-30% of patient medications are never filled.

By creating processes that support and improve patient access to medications; patients experience better health outcomes and improved quality of life. Patients who pick up their medications at their local pharmacy have the opportunity to talk with their pharmacist about how to properly take their medications and to understand the positive benefits of taking their medication.

This bill:

Specifically, this bill:

- Allows patients to opt out of their health plan's mandatory mail order program if they prefer to obtain their prescription drugs from a community pharmacy.
- Streamlines prescription medications by placing the patient's medications on the same refill schedule.
- Allows patients who run out of prescription eye medications because of accidental spillage or who use more than 70% of their eye drops to be eligible for an early refill.

Support:

California Healthcare Institute (Co-Sponsor)
California Pharmacists Association (Co-Sponsor)

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