

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of human services to establish a prescription drug education program for providers participating in state health care programs. The bill specifies program components and other requirements, and establishes an assessment on wholesale drug distributors.

Section

1 Prescription drug education program. Adds § 62U.085.

Subd. 1. Program design. Requires the commissioner of human services, in collaboration with the Board of Pharmacy, the University of Minnesota Medical School, and the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, to develop an evidence-based prescription drug education program to provide information and education on the therapeutic and cost-effective utilization of prescription drugs to health care professionals authorized to prescribe drugs. Allows the commissioner to contract for technical and clinical support.

Subd. 2. Program components. (a) Requires the program to include outreach and education components related to the therapeutic and cost-effective utilization of drugs, as provided in peer-reviewed scientific, medical, and academic research publications. Allows the commissioner to limit the scope of outreach and education to those drugs identified by the Drug Utilization Review Board as most subject to fraud, abuse, gross overuse, or associated with inappropriate or medically unnecessary care. Specifies other information to be used or incorporated.

(b) Specifies requirements for educational materials.

(c) Requires the program to include in-person outreach and education sessions for health care professionals in their place of work, facilitated by qualified educators.

(d) Requires the commissioner to establish: (1) minimum clinical and educational

qualifications for educators; (2) training for educators; and (3) a code of conduct for educators and conflict of interest guidelines for educators and others.

Subd. 3. Program coverage. Requires the program to provide outreach and education to health care professionals who as a group prescribe 80 percent or more of medications dispensed to state health care program enrollees. Allows the commissioner to further limit outreach and education to specific prescribers identified by the drug utilization review board. Allows the program to provide outreach and education to other providers and entities on a subscription or fee-paying basis. Allows the commissioner to establish a fee and appropriates the revenue for administration of the program.

(b) Defines “state health care programs” as including the MA, GAMC, and MinnesotaCare programs, health care programs funded by the Department of Corrections, and the state employee group health insurance program.

Subd. 4. Annual report. Requires the commissioner to submit to the relevant legislative committees an annual report on the program, beginning April 1, 2011.

Subd. 5. Funding. Allows the commissioner to seek grants and private funds for the program.

Subd. 6. Fee assessed. Requires the commissioner of human services, effective July 1, 2010, to assess each wholesale drug distributor a quarterly fee, equal to 0.5 percent of revenues the distributor would have received had the distributor been reimbursed at the MA rate for drugs provided to state health care program enrollees. Directs the commissioner to use the revenues to implement the prescription drug education program.