

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 657
Version: First engrossment

DATE: March 17, 2015

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Subject: Automated Drug Distribution Systems; Retrospective Billing

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Overview

This bill allows automated drug distribution systems to be used in certain boarding care homes and modifies procedures for certifying the accuracy of the filling of an automated drug distribution system. The bill also modifies the procedures used to determine the quantity of over-the-counter drugs that can be dispensed under MA, to reflect the use of automated drug distribution systems, and allows certain long-term care pharmacies to bill retrospectively.

Section

- 1 **Definitions.** Amends § 151.58, subd. 2. Includes a boarding care home that provides centralized storage of medications in the definition of “health care facility,” for purposes of the use of automated drug distribution systems.
- 2 **Operation of automated drug distribution systems.** Amends § 151.58, subd. 5. Provides an exemption from the requirement that a pharmacist employed by and working at the managing pharmacy certify the accuracy of the filling of any cassettes, canisters, or containers of drugs that will be loaded into the automated drug distribution system. This requirement would not apply if the filled cassettes, canisters, or containers have been provided by a repackager registered with the FDA.
- 3 **Drugs.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 13. Modifies the procedure used to calculate the number of dosage units of an over-the-counter medication that can be dispensed under MA. Current law requires this quantity to be the lowest of the number of dosage units in the manufacturer’s original package or the number dosage units required to complete the patient’s course of therapy. This section adds to this list the number of dosage units

Section

dispensed from a system using retrospective billing. Provides an effective date of January 1, 2016, or upon federal approval, whichever is later.

- 4** **Payment rates.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 13e. The amendment to paragraph (a) specifies the pharmacy dispensing fee for over-the-counter drugs that applies when a retrospectively billing pharmacy bills for quantities less than the number of units in the manufacturer's original package.

A new paragraph (b) allows pharmacies dispensing prescriptions to residents of long-term care facilities, that use an automated drug distribution system, or a packaging system that meets the standards in rule that allow drugs to be returned, to use retrospective billing. Requires claims to be submitted only for the quantity of medication used during a defined billing period, and requires a retrospectively billing pharmacy to use a billing period not less than one calendar month or 30 days.

The amendment to paragraph (c) exempts pharmacies that use a packaging system that allows drugs to be returned from the requirement to credit DHS for the acquisition cost of all unused drugs, if that pharmacy uses retrospective billing.

Provides an effective date of January 1, 2016, or upon federal approval, whichever is later.