

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 21-2454/1		Introduction Number AB-0290	
Description reimbursement of pharmacist services under the Medical Assistance program			
Fiscal Effect			
State:			
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs			
Local:			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs			
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
5. Types of Local Government Units Affected			
<input type="checkbox"/> Towns		<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Counties		<input type="checkbox"/> Others	
<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts		<input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected		Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		20.435(4)(b) and 20.435(4)(o)	
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 4/23/2021

LRB Number	21-2454/1	Introduction Number	AB-0290	Estimate Type	Original
Description reimbursement of pharmacist services under the Medical Assistance program					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, the Wisconsin Medicaid program reimburses pharmacies for dispensing covered outpatient drugs to Medicaid members. Medicaid reimburses the pharmacy a professional dispensing fee plus the ingredient cost of the drug. In limited circumstances, the program reimburses pharmacies for other services, such as the administration of certain vaccines or medication therapy management.

This bill directs Medicaid to reimburse pharmacists for any service provided to a Medicaid enrollee that is within the scope of the pharmacist's license or that is delegated by a physician through a collaborative practice agreement. To implement the legislation, the Department would need to establish pharmacists as a new, separate provider category, define allowable services and service settings, set reimbursement rates for those services, and undertake a federal approval process, among other steps. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics data, there were approximately 5,700 pharmacists in Wisconsin as of May 2020.

There are multiple uncertainties in attempting to determine the fiscal effect of this bill. It is unknown how many individual pharmacists would choose to enroll as Medicaid providers and begin billing for dispensing drugs, vaccine administration or other services within the scope of their license. It is also unknown the extent to which claims submitted by pharmacists would replace or be in addition to claims that would be submitted by pharmacies under current law or other licensed professionals. Similarly, it cannot be determined the volume of services to Medicaid members that physicians would delegate to pharmacists and whether those services would replace services that physicians would otherwise provide and seek reimbursement for. The Department would also need to decide whether the reimbursement rate structure for pharmacists would be equivalent or different from physician rates, which would also affect costs.

By establishing a new Medicaid provider category and allowing more providers to bill Medicaid for reimbursement, the bill will likely increase costs to the program. However, because of the uncertainties outlined above, a precise cost increase cannot be calculated, and the fiscal effect of the bill is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications