

SB 312 PHARMACY PRACTICE AMENDMENTS (Vickers, Evan J.)

Anticipated Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact to the state employee health plan

Among other things, SB 312 requires health plans to recognize pharmacists as contracted health providers for certain limited services related to prescribing and dispensing medications. It also establishes that health plans are required to pay pharmacies for both ingredient and dispensing fees. As we read the bill, while it expands the services that a pharmacist can perform, it doesn't change or otherwise increase how a health plan should pay for those services. As before, health plans would pay for ingredient costs plus a dispensing fee. As to the part of the bill that relates to payment, as is generally the case for health plans, including PEHP, we contract with a pharmacy benefits manager in providing prescription drug coverage to our members. Our pharmacy benefits manager in turn contracts with pharmacies. As currently worded, we would not see any change in the amount that would be reimbursed to pharmacies through PEHP's pharmacy benefit manager, although the bill creates a more direct obligation on health plans to pay such amount.