

February 5, 2014

Hello, my name is Marty Irons. I practice in a community pharmacy in Rutland and sit on the board of the Vermont Pharmacists Association. **I am testifying to support passage of S.236. (An Act Relating to Prescription Refill Synchronization)**

When I started practicing my profession twenty five years ago, a patient who received five or six prescriptions a month was considered a patient who received “a lot” of medications. Since that time, the average American is living longer. America has benefitted from an explosion of new medications to treat problems and diseases. Because of this, many of our seniors and disabled patients are on very complex prescription regimens. It is common to have patients on ten or more medications.

S.236 will help pharmacists coordinate prescription therapy, improve medication adherence, improve outcomes, reduce hospital readmissions, decrease the need for visiting nurses to help patients take medications and potentially reduce prescription misadventures by patients.

S.236, if passed as written, will provide a simple mechanism to achieve the aforementioned goals.

All pharmacies use the same prescription standard for sending claims to pharmacy benefits managers. There is already coding in this software that can be used to synchronize prescription refills if S.236 is passed. Pharmacies would be able to take advantage of the bill almost immediately with little or no expense involved.

Finally the passage of S.236 would be a “win/win” for patients and healthcare providers alike.

Thank you,

Marty Irons, RPh, CDE