

1 S.236

2 Introduced by Senator Mullin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; prescription drugs; chronic conditions; prescription refill  
6 synchronization

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to coordinate a  
8 patient's prescribed medications for chronic conditions to allow all of the  
9 prescriptions to be refilled on the same date each month.

10 An act relating to prescription refill synchronization

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4089i is amended to read:

13 § 4089i. PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

14 \* \* \*

15 (g) A health insurance or other health benefit plan offered by a health  
16 insurer or by a pharmacy benefit manager on behalf of a health insurer that  
17 provides coverage for prescription drugs shall not deny coverage for the refill  
18 of any drug prescribed for the treatment of a chronic illness that is made in  
19 accordance with a plan among a member or subscriber, a health care

1 professional, and a pharmacist to synchronize the refilling of multiple  
2 prescriptions for the member or subscriber.

3 (h) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Health care professional" means an individual licensed to practice  
5 medicine under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, an individual certified as a  
6 physician assistant under 26 V.S.A. chapter 31, or an individual licensed as an  
7 advanced practice registered nurse under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28.

8 (2) "Health insurer" shall have the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A.  
9 § 9402.

10 (3) "Out-of-pocket expenditure" means a co-payment, coinsurance,  
11 deductible, or other cost-sharing mechanism.

12 (4) "Pharmacy benefit manager" shall have the same meaning as in  
13 section 4089j of this title.

14 (5) "Step therapy" means protocols that establish the specific sequence  
15 in which prescription drugs for a specific medical condition are to be  
16 prescribed.

17 ~~(h)~~(i) The Department of Financial Regulation shall enforce this section  
18 and may adopt rules as necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on October 1, 2014 and shall apply to all health  
21 insurance and other health benefit plans on and after October 1, 2014 on such

- 1 date as a health insurer offers, issues, or renews the health insurance or health
- 2 benefit plan, but in no event later than October 1, 2015.