

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Picraux DATE TYPED 3/9/05 HB 638/aHJC

SHORT TITLE Reimbursement for Pharmacist Services SB _____

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			See Narrative		

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public School Insurance Authority (PSIA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HJC Amendment

The House Judiciary Committee amendment corrects the heading of 59A-47-28 from COVERAGE FOR SERVICE OF CHIROPRACTOR to PHARMACIST AND PHARMACIST CLINICIAN.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 638 expands the definition of “practitioner of the healing arts” in health insurance plans to include pharmacists and pharmacist clinicians.

Significant Issues

This bill will allow recognition of and reimbursement to pharmacists for medical services performed under the scope of their license. Pharmacist functions now include cognitive services, testing for osteoporosis, cholesterol screenings, as well as the prescribing and administering of immunizations.

This bill will have a very positive impact on healthcare access in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Pharmacist services will be provided in lieu of physician and laboratory services, which are already covered by many health insurance plans. PSIA already provides coverage for vaccines provided by certified pharmacists.

Most of the services currently offered by pharmacists and pharmacist clinicians are preventative in nature. In the long run, preventative care saves money as well increasing the health of the insureds. In addition this bill will improve access to the preventative care.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Health plans including the ones administered by the State for active employees, retired employees and employees of the public schools will need to update their provider databases to include pharmacists.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The PSIA provided the following:

On page 1, lines 23 and 24, it seems redundant to mention “pharmacist, pharmacist clinician” specifically, as they are being added to the definition of “practioner of the healing arts” on page 3, lines 15 and 16.

On page 12, line 11, heading should read “COVERAGE FOR SERVICE OF PHARMACIST OR PHARMACIST CLINICIAN” instead of “CHIROPRACTOR”

DW/yr:njw