

May 19, 2006

To: John Shilts  
Department of Consumer and Business Services  
Workers' Compensation Division

RE: Proposed rulemaking hearing on workers' compensation rules.

I have been a pharmacist in Oregon for the past 26 years and am currently the Vice President and Director of Pharmacy with Fred Meyer Stores. I am writing this letter to express opposition to the proposed amendment of workers' compensation rules affecting injured workers, employers, medical providers, insurers, and others as described in OAR 436.

Pharmacists provide a valuable service to patients and physicians alike. The pharmacist is more likely to have an accurate record of a patient's medications and can immediately determine if a recommended prescription may conflict with other drugs the patient may be taking. This is very important, especially if the provider is not the patient's primary care physician and does not have ready access to the patient's prescription records.

With the physician supplying the prescription there is a loss of the double-check process that would have been performed by the pharmacist.

This proposal could result in all drugs being dispensed out of a physician's or nurse practitioner's office for the lifetime of the claim, reducing the effectiveness of the pharmacy network that insurance companies use to take advantage of cost savings provided by these networks.

The existing rule provides for the doctor to dispense an initial 10-day supply of medication to the injured worker and adequately deals with the short term needs of the patient and allows time for a claim to be established by the insurance company.

When a patient who identifies themselves as an injured worker visits one of our pharmacies we are able to provide them with up to a 30 days supply of medication on their first visit. The patient need only provide our pharmacist with some basic information such as their employer's name and the date of their injury. There is no out of pocket cost to the patient. The proposed rule change will not reduce out of pocket expenses for these patients. Injured workers are not turned away from our pharmacies because they cannot afford to pay for the medications out of pocket.

I don't see where there is a problem with the current system.

Sincerely,



Marcus A. Cecchini, R.Ph.  
Vice President, Director of Pharmacy  
Fred Meyer Stores  
3800 S.E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202  
503-797-7826  
[marc.cecchini@fredmeyer.com](mailto:marc.cecchini@fredmeyer.com)

**EXHIBIT**

7