

March 2022

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Insurance

Re: Support for HB22-1246

Dear Chair Lontine and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of OnePoint Patient Care, I respectfully submit this letter of **support** for HB22-1246, legislation to allow a hospice inpatient unit (IPU) to utilize remote pharmacy dispensing cabinets.

By way of background, OnePoint Patient Care is one of the leading national hospice pharmacies. From our location in Greenwood Village, OnePoint fills prescriptions, creates custom compounds and formularies, and provides home deliveries for more than 3,000 Coloradans residing in hospice settings.

The changes proposed by this legislation are needed to address current statutory limitations that prohibit the use of an automated dispensing cabinet in a hospice IPU. Under current law, this utilization can only be located at a long-term care facility, and not at a hospice IPU.

Automated dispensing cabinets/devices provide secure medication storage along with electronic tracking of medications dispensed, allowing for timely access to prescriptions and emergency kits as needed, as well as increase nursing and pharmacy efficiencies.

Like a long-term care facility (LTCF), an IPU is maintained primarily for the care and treatment of inpatients under the direction of a physician and where they receive twenty-four-hour care management from the observation of the nursing staff. Patients admitted to the Hospice IPU require intensive therapy and oversight to control symptoms and properly manage pain. Additionally, Hospice IPUs are challenged with an average length of stay of only 5 days, compared to the LTCF average of 28 days, creating an intensity to quickly manage the complexity of patient care needs at the critical moments of end-of-life.

The number of dispensed medications, frequent order changes, and urgency required to meet the critical needs of patients in hospice inpatient settings creates a tremendous risk and challenge for a single individual consultant pharmacist. The allowance of an automated dispensing cabinet would help support pharmacists in caring for patients and will generate better patient outcomes for these extremely vulnerable patient populations. It simply merely extends to hospice IPUs the same ability for utilization as currently exists for LTCFs.

I respectfully ask for your **support** for HB22-1246 in Committee and am available should you have questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Guzman".

Matt Guzman, Pharmacy Manager

OnePoint Patient Care

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