PROPOSALS TO FURTHER ADDRESS OPIOID MISUSE IN COLORADO
REGULATION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS
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• Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists in medication-related tasks, such as compounding medications and processing prescriptions

• Colorado is one of only four states in the US to not regulate pharmacy technicians

• In a study evaluating 811 drug diversion cases in 9 states, pharmacy technicians represent 71% of those cases, the vast majority being controlled substances*
  • In 92% of those cases, the technicians resold the diverted medications for personal gain

*Draime JA, Anderson DC, Anderson TS. Description and comparison of medication diversion in pharmacies by pharmacists, interns, and pharmacy technicians. JAPhA 2018; 58: 275-280.
The Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS) submitted a sunrise application to DORA to regulate pharmacy technicians in our state.

That application is pending review with an analyst recommendation expected by October, 2018.

CPS plans to work with RxPlus and the Colorado Retail Council to develop legislation that is not overly burdensome, but still regulates technicians in our state.

The case for regulating technicians would be made stronger through endorsement by the Opioid Taskforce.
E-PRESCRIBING
E-PRESCRIBING TO REDUCE PRESCRIPTION FORGERIES

A comment from a CPS Board member, a regional pharmacy manager in a large retail chain:

“Forgeries for CII’s continue and those for CIII-V are increasing. These take time for the pharmacist to solve that would be better spent on patient care activities. Our pharmacists report having to assume everything is a forgery and work back from there. This puts patients with legitimate prescriptions in line with those forging and misusing opioids.”
E-PRESCRIBING TRENDS

- Beginning January 1, 2020, Walmart will only accept E-prescriptions for controlled substances (Press release, May 21, 2018)

- Eleven states (NY, ME, CT, AZ, NC, RI, IA, IN, MA, OK, and VA) have passed legislation mandating electronic prescribing for controlled substances

- In 2019, one of the nation’s largest wholesalers, McKesson Corporation, will no longer sell opioids to customers who cannot accept e-prescriptions for controlled substances (Press release, March 29, 2018)

- S. 2460: Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act; introduced by Senator Michael Bennet to amend the Social Security Act to require e-prescribing for coverage under Medicare part D for all controlled substances (introduced February 2018)