

House Health & Human Services

03/12/2024 Upon Adjournment

SB24-087 Health Facility Topical Medication Continued Care

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Cara Capitena-Young</p> <p>Against</p> <p>Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons</p>	<p>Hello I'm Cara Capitena Young, one of the Eye surgeons at the university of Colorado. I am also the medical director of our ophthalmic operating rooms at the university of Colorado.</p> <p>We at UCH eye OR performed approximately 5300 surgeries in 2023 just in our eye OR. Approximately 3800 of these were cataract, corneal or glaucoma surgeries. In essence 3800 of these would require multiple preoperative and intraoperative eye drops that could have been used by the patient post operatively had we been allowed to give the drops to them. So the patients then had to pay for their drops twice once in their surgical bill and again at the pharmacy.</p> <p>The average cost of two of these drops, the antibiotic and the topical anti-inflammatory that prevents complications intraoperatively are \$88 and \$46 respectively. Just those two drops, for the surgeries I mentioned, cost the health system approximately \$514,000 (half a million dollars) in 2023. Now this is not a direct cost to the patient, but costs to a health system inevitably trickle down to patients and the economy.</p> <p>This initiative that we are discussing has already taken effect in some other states. At northwestern health system, they showed that for cataract surgery alone, an average of \$150 of eye drops were wasted on each patient. Over 5 years their health system showed that using multidose eye drop bottles appropriately for patients undergoing ophthalmic surgery saved \$239,000 over 5 years. While that's not the largest number you will hear in relation to medical care costs it is still a substantial amount of money and every bit counts.</p> <p>The current policy of disposing of multiuse drops after a single use also contributes to drug shortages. You yourselves likely have heard about or been affected by the worsening drug shortages we have been experiencing in the last several years. In just the last year, off the top of my head I can think of 7 different ophthalmic drug shortages that have negatively</p>

	<p>impacted my patients, their visual outcome, myself, our staff and physician work load and mental wellbeing. Several of these have lasted months and as noted have lead to negative outcomes for patients.</p> <p>Using these multidrop bottles appropriately can positively impact these shortages and likely help to prevent more.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this bill and thank you for listening this morning.</p>
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