

Legislative Update
February 6, 2015
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KMS Bill to Change APRN Regulatory Structure

A bill introduced by KMS would present a new approach to APRN regulation. The bill's nexus came at the conclusion of Task Force discussions between physicians and APRNs this past year, with APRNs wanting to expand their scope of practice – and to practice independently of a physician collaboration – to that of physicians.

HB 2205 would do the following, according to KMS:

- APRNs would continue to be licensed by the Board of Nursing, but subject to scope of practice regulations that are jointly approved by the Nursing Board and the Board of Healing Arts;
- Create a formal, joint committee structure that would assist the two boards by leading the development of the APRN regulations, and providing a forum to promote better communication and coordination between the APRN and physician communities, and their respective licensing agencies;
- Allow the joint boards to determine whether collaborative practice agreements are necessary, depending on the clinical setting and the nature of the services provided by the APRN;
- Authorize the appointment of the joint committee immediately and allow it to start working, while the existing statutory and regulatory structure stays unchanged;
- Give the joint committee and the two licensing boards until July 1, 2016 to develop and implement the new joint regulations; and,
- Require the two boards to provide a written progress report to the House and Senate health committees in January 2016.

This type of regulatory structure would recognize the evolving nature of APRN practice and of different clinical settings.

HB 2205 was introduced in the House Appropriations Committee before being referred to the House Health and Human Services Committee. Introduction through the Appropriations Committee exempts it from hearing and voting deadlines attached to bills from most other legislative committees.

Bill to Place Limits on Mental Health Medications

A new bill would repeal a Medicaid statute that does not require prior authorizations for medications used to treat mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, depression or bipolar disorder. **SB 123** would go the way of about half of the states and remove the special status that mental illness medications currently have in Kansas.

Medicaid managed care organizations would be allowed to require prior authorization before providers prescribe these medications. KDHE has said the intent is that patients would still get the medications they need, with minimal obstruction to patient care.

SB 123 is meeting strong resistance from mental health advocates, psychiatrists, and other physicians, who are concerned that the repeal would create an unintentional decrease in mental health for patients needing these medications.

The bill will have a public hearing in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee on Wednesday, February 11. Physicians having concerns about the impact of SB 123 are encouraged to contact their State senators about the negative impact the legislation could have on Medicaid patients with mental illness.

Family Doctor of the Day Recognition

A special **thank you** goes out to those providing FDOD services this past week: **Dr. John Feehan**, Olathe; **Dr. Eric Clarkson**, Pratt; **Dr. Lee Mills**, Newton; and **Dr. Chuck Allred**, Salina. We know that setting aside this kind of time in your already busy schedules is not easy, but your commitment is truly appreciated!

There are still FDOD openings in the 2015 legislative session. In addition to providing an appreciated service to legislators, it allows an excellent opportunity to view the legislative process firsthand and to speak with your own legislators on KAFP legislative priorities.

Legislative Committee Meetings of Potential Interest, Week of February 9

Monday, Feb 9

9:00, House Vision 2020, Room 218-N

Discussion: Proposed Medicaid expansion bill

Tuesday, Feb 10

1:30, House Health & Human Services, Room 546-S

Discussion & possible action on:

- [HB 2004](#) – *Right to Try Act*
- [HB 2032](#) – *Diabetes information reporting*

1:30, Senate Public Health & Welfare, Room 118-N

Hearing on: [HB 122](#) – Hospital facility fees

3:30, House Taxation, Room 582-N

Informational briefing: Cigarette Tax revenue forecasting model, Dept. of Revenue

Wednesday, Feb 11

1:30, Senate Public Health & Welfare, Room 118-N

Hearing on: [SB 123](#) – Medications used to treat mental illnesses under Medicaid program

Thursday, Feb 12

9:00, House Children & Seniors, Room 218-N

Presentation on: KanCare, Dr. Susan Mosier, KDHE