



August 17, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O St., Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1557 (Flora) — REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

There is no greater priority for California's hospitals and pharmacists than the safety of their patients. This means that every non-emergency medication ordered for a patient admitted to a hospital is reviewed by a pharmacist prior to administration to avoid medication errors.

The California Hospital Association, on behalf of its more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1557, which would make permanent the authority for a state-licensed pharmacist to conduct medication reviews outside of a licensed California hospital.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires a pharmacist to review all non-emergency medication orders prior to administration to patients. However, many rural hospitals do not have a pharmacist on-site during all hours of operation, which could delay medication administration.

Also, during patient surges and unanticipated employee leave, on-site pharmacists may be insufficient to perform all necessary services. They include conducting timely reviews of medication orders; compounding preparations; monitoring the supply of all medicines used in the hospital; purchasing and quality testing their medication stock; and other duties. Advancements in technology over the last few decades, along with waivers provided by the California State Board of Pharmacy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have enabled hospital pharmacists to remotely review and process medications. Today, millions of new orders are reviewed and processed off-site prior to patient administration.

The flexibility permitted under AB 1557 would help ensure that all new non-emergency medications prescribed to patients in California hospitals have been carefully reviewed by a pharmacist. The passage of AB 1557 is urgently needed so hospitals can continue to use this proven and safe practice.

AB 1557's straightforward approach ensures continuity of patient care while providing flexibility to hospitals in determining how to best manage medication reviews for patients. **For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your signature on AB 1557.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at vgonzalez@calhospital.org.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gonzalez

Vanessa Gonzalez

Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Heath Flora
Sam Miller, Deputy Legislative Secretary and Chief of Legislative Operations, Office of the Governor