



California State Health Information Technology Day 2017

HIMSS California Chapter Recommendations to State Legislators

Ask #1 – Support Greater Access to Pharmacists

Background Statement

Seventy-seven percent of rural counties are designated as health professional shortage areas. Lack of convenient access to a pharmacy leads to lower rates of medication adherence. With the evolution of technology and healthcare delivery, it is now possible to staff a remote pharmacy with a technician who has internet connectivity to a licensed pharmacist. Using technology to connect patients with pharmacists in areas where there is no access will improve medication adherence and health outcomes.

Specific Ask

Support AB 401. Support removing barriers to healthcare services provided by authorizing a remote dispensing site pharmacy to use a tele-pharmacy system. **Promoting this solution will allow all California patients, regardless of location, to have access to a pharmacist, thereby increasing medication adherence and promoting individual health.**

Ask #2 – Support Secure Practitioner Access to CURES Database

Background Statement

Existing law requires the Department of Justice to maintain the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) for the electronic monitoring of the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances. Practitioners such as physicians and pharmacists must have appropriate secure access to the CURES database to view controlled substance prescribing history of patients. **AB 40 would expand access to and utilization of the CURES database by enabling integration with practitioner IT systems and simplifying review of the data during their normal clinical workflow.**

Specific Ask: Support AB 40. Support expanding electronic access to controlled substance prescribing information by making it a normal part of practitioner workflow.