



TO: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature
From: Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Health Care Association and LeadingAge Wisconsin
Re: Support for Senate Bill 251/Assembly Bill 292

The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW), along with the two organizations representing nursing home providers in Wisconsin, Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA) and LeadingAge Wisconsin, worked cooperatively to develop Senate Bill 251/Assembly Bill 292, which has been reviewed by the Wisconsin Medical Society. When enacted, this legislation will implement efficiencies in the use of prescription drugs in nursing homes and in the collaboration between pharmacists and physicians.

We are asking for your support of Senate Bill 251/Assembly Bill 292.

There are two provisions of the legislation:

First, nursing homes in Wisconsin are asking that current law be revised to allow for the development and use of a prescription drug formulary. Under current law, hospitals are allowed to use formularies in order to perform similar therapeutic selections. Under both instances, the therapeutic selections would be done with the approval of a committee that consists of a Wisconsin physician and pharmacist designated by the facility. This change would allow for nursing homes to better control the costs attributed to prescription drugs dispensed to residents of these facilities, especially in those instances when a nursing home resident does not have a health insurance plan with a specific formulary requirement. By working together, the facility, physicians, and pharmacists can better manage the prescription care for nursing home residents by reducing costs and staff time.

Secondly, current law allows physicians to delegate authority for patient care to a pharmacist. However, the law doesn't specify that a pharmacist may accept the delegation from a physician. The bill simply clarifies current law to allow a pharmacist to accept a physician delegated act. By working together through defined collaborative agreements, physicians and pharmacists are able to improve how their patients use medications through better coordination of care.

We are requesting your support of Senate Bill 251/Assembly Bill 292.