

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family

MaineHealth Accountable
Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth Neither For Nor Against LD 60

“An Act To Clarify the Minimum Amount of Emergency Refills of Insulin”

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify Neither For Nor Against LD 60, “An Act To Clarify the Minimum Amount of Emergency Refills of Insulin.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides a full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. As part of our mission of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” MaineHealth, we strongly support increasing access to affordable – and lifesaving – health care and medications. In fact, MaineHealth has established a policy to provide Free Care to all patients with incomes at 200% of the poverty level, despite the fact that the State mandates that Free Care must only be provided to Maine residents at less than 150% of the federal poverty level. Additionally, MaineHealth’s MedAccess program helps patients and health care providers find low cost prescription drug options.

With that said, we strongly support ensuring that a patient has access to insulin in an emergency situation when a prescription has expired. We are concerned, however, that without limits a patient may find it unnecessary to maintain appointments and regular care with their primary care provider or endocrinologist, which could have negative impacts on their overall health and wellbeing. As such, we recommend that the Committee follow other states’ examples by placing a restriction on the amount of times an emergency prescription can be filled in a year. For example, in Colorado it is limited to one time in the previous twelve-month period, a time period that our internal clinical committee thought was reasonable.

Lastly, a reminder that regular, Neutral Protamine Hagedorn (NPH), and 70/30 insulins are available over-the-counter and do not require a prescription.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.