



Specialty Tier Reform Update – Week of August 4, 2014

By Mark Hobracczk

STATES

California

Bill to limit prescription drug cost-sharing heads to Senate floor

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed A.B. 1917 this week, which would prohibit cost-sharing for a 30-day supply of any single prescription from exceeding 1/12 of the annual out-of-pocket limits set by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). For a drug that has a time-limited course of treatment of three months or less, this limit would be set at one-half of the annual out-of-pocket limit for the time-limited course of treatment.

The measure has already cleared the full Assembly and Senate Health Committee (see Specialty Tier Reform Update for Week of June 23rd) and is expected to receive a full Senate vote before the legislative deadline later this month.

A.B. 1917 would effectively spread out the cost-sharing for the highest tier specialty drugs over a full year instead of forcing consumers to pay all at once and is backed by consumer groups like Health Access California.