



December 10, 2019

Mr. Jesse O'Brien
Senior Policy Advisor
Oregon Dept. of Consumer & Business Services
Division of Financial Regulation
350 Winter St. NE, 2nd Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Via email: Jesse.E.Obrien@oregon.gov

Re: Comments on DCBS Second Discussion Draft - HB 2185 Rule Text

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I am pleased to provide comments on behalf of Ardon Health Specialty Pharmacy in response to the Department of Consumer and Business Services' (DCBS) Second Discussion Draft – HB 2185. Ardon Health is a Portland, Oregon based specialty pharmacy which provides specialty medications and enhanced clinical care and services to patients with serious and chronic health conditions such as Cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and HIV. We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder feedback in advance of any formal rulemaking for HB 2185. Our concern is ensuring that the sensitive patient populations served by specialty pharmacies continue to have access to the clinical care and supportive services they depend on to afford and stay adherent with complex medication therapies.

Ardon Health offers the following comments in response to the Second Discussion Draft:

1. Ardon Health concurs with the definition for specialty drugs put forth in Section (3) and supports inclusion of this definition in formal rulemaking for HB 2185.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) of this section, a prescription drug may be shown to meet the definition of "specialty drug" under 2019 Or Laws ch 526 Section 4 if, to be properly dispensed according to standard industry practice, the drug

- a. Requires difficult or unusual preparation, handling, storage, inventory, or distribution;*

- b. *Is associated with difficult or unusual data collection or administrative requirements;*
 - c. *Requires a pharmacist to manage the patient's use of the drug by monitoring or providing disease or therapeutic support systems.*
2. Ardon Health concurs that the specialty pharmacy definition in the enrolled version of HB 2185 does not effectively distinguish pharmacies with appropriate specialty drug dispensing and comprehensive patient care capabilities (including disease management programs). We concur with the definition for specialty pharmacy put forth in Section (4) of the Second Discussion Draft, with one minor change; we believe a pharmacy should demonstrate that it meets the definition of specialty pharmacy under 2019 Or Laws ch 526 Section 4 by showing that it meets both (a) and (b) elements of the definition.

We support inclusion of the following specialty pharmacy definition in formal rulemaking for HB 2185:

- (4) For the purposes of subsection (2) of this section, a pharmacy may demonstrate that it meets the definition of "specialty pharmacy" under 2019 Or Laws ch 526 Section 4 by showing that*
- a. *Its business is primarily providing specialty drugs and specialized, disease-specific clinical care and services for people with serious or chronic health conditions requiring complex medication therapies; and*
 - b. *It has been validated for meeting quality, safety and accountability standards for specialty pharmacy practice through accreditation in specialty pharmacy by a nationally recognized, independent accreditation organization.*

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional insights or information. I would also welcome the opportunity to participate in the HB 2185 Rule Advisory Committee.

Best regards,



Audrey Monroe
Director of Marketing & Communications