



**SB09-250  
Coverage for Oral Chemotherapy**

Objective of Bill:

Requires health benefit plans that provide coverage for cancer chemotherapy treatment to provide coverage for orally administered anticancer medication on a basis **no less favorable** than that of coverage provided for intravenously administered or injected medications.

Kaiser Permanente Concerns:

- \* Kaiser Permanente believes this bill will drive significant costs to consumers with no significant added benefit in health outcomes.  
Treatment regimen\* cost for approximately 500 patients with colorectal cancer over the course of one year with **injectable chemo drug regimen: approximately \$850,000.**  
Treatment regimen\* cost for approximately 500 patients with colorectal cancer over the course of one year with **oral chemo (pill) drug regimen: \$9.3 million.**  
(Treatment regimen is 12 cycles of injectable and 8 cycles of oral/pill.)  
**One treatment course for injectable: \$320.00**  
**One treatment course for oral: \$20,000.00**

Please keep in mind these figures are for treatment of one type of cancer, so the cost to our members could be staggering.

- \* Benefit to patient is comparable for most types of cancer. Kaiser Permanente does include oral chemotherapy on its formulary and does cover oral chemotherapy for certain types of cancer with appropriate cost sharing.
- \* Oral chemotherapy has no less significant side effects than injected chemotherapy, depending on the patient and the type of cancer being treated.
- \* Chemotherapy, whether injected or in pill form, is a toxic substance designed to kill cells. Direct medical oversight is essential for this treatment to ensure safety and efficacy of treatment.
- \* Patients have side effects with oral chemotherapy sometimes stop taking the chemo pill or do not take it as directed, and this can have significant negative outcomes for their treatment program.
- \* Decision for use of oral or other forms of chemotherapy is between the oncologist and the patient.

**Please do not support SB 250**



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