



**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. This will shift oral chemotherapy from a pharmacy benefit to a medical benefit which will cause a cost shift to Kaiser Permanente's entire membership.

Kaiser Permanente Concerns: Safety, Effectiveness, Cost

- * Kaiser Permanente does include all oral chemotherapy on its formulary and does cover oral chemotherapy for certain types of cancer with appropriate cost sharing.
- * Kaiser Permanente's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has discovered *no conclusive data indicating oral chemotherapy agents are more effective* in treating the preponderance of cancer diagnoses.
- * 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.
- * Oral chemotherapy **has no less significant side effects** than injected chemotherapy, depending on the patient and the type of cancer being treated.
- * Patients who 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.
- * 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**. This includes all costs for administration of the drug.
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**. This does not include drug administration costs such as oversight, follow-up testing, etc.
*(Treatment regimen is 12 cycles of injectable and 8 cycles of oral/pill.)
Please keep in mind these figures are for the treatment of one type of cancer, so the cost to our members could be staggering.
- * Decision for use of oral or other forms of chemotherapy is between the oncologist and the patient.

Please do not support SB 250