
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 572 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, KILLION, FOLMER, MENSCH, HUTCHINSON,
MARTIN, BROWNE, YAW AND SCAVELLO, APRIL 18, 2019

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
NOVEMBER 19, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in public safety, providing for opioid
3 treatment agreements.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 52B

9 OPIOID TREATMENT AGREEMENTS

10 Sec.

11 52B01. Definitions.

12 52B02. Procedure.

13 52B03. Regulations.

14 52B04. Penalties.

15 § 52B01. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "ACUTE PAIN." THE SUDDEN ONSET OF PAIN IN RESPONSE TO A <--
3 SPECIFIC INJURY THAT RESPONDS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT. PAIN THAT <--
4 COMES ON QUICKLY, MAY BE SEVERE, BUT LASTS A RELATIVELY SHORT
5 TIME AND IS PROVOKED BY A SPECIFIC CONDITION OR INJURY.

6 "Baseline test." The initial assessment through a urine drug
7 test to:

8 (1) identify the presence of an illegal substance prior
9 to prescribing a controlled substance; or

10 (2) ~~confirm~~ ASSESS the presence or absence of a <--
11 prescribed drug or drug class.

12 "CHRONIC PAIN." PAIN THAT PERSISTS OR PROGRESSES OVER A <--
13 PERIOD OF TIME THAT MAY BE RELATED TO ANOTHER MEDICAL CONDITION
14 AND IS RESISTANT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE
15 ACUTE PAIN.

16 "Controlled substance." A drug, substance or immediate
17 precursor included in Schedules II through V of section 4 of the
18 act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled
19 Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

20 "Definitive drug test." A qualitative or quantitative urine
21 drug test used to identify specific drugs, specific drug
22 concentrations and associated metabolites.

23 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

24 "Individual." An individual who is at least 18 years of age.

25 "Medical emergency." A situation that, in the good faith
26 professional judgment of the prescriber, creates an immediate A <--
27 TIME SENSITIVE threat of serious risk to the life or physical
28 health of a person. THE TERM INCLUDES TREATMENT RECEIVED IN AN <--
29 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR URGENT CARE CENTER UNDER THE ACT OF
30 NOVEMBER 2, 2016 (P.L.976, NO.122), KNOWN AS THE SAFE EMERGENCY

1 PRESCRIBING ACT.

2 "Opioid." Any of the following:

3 (1) A preparation or derivative of opium.

4 (2) A synthetic narcotic that has opiate-like effects
5 but is not derived from opium.

6 (3) A group of naturally occurring peptides that bind at
7 or otherwise influence opiate receptors, including an opioid
8 agonist.

9 "Periodic test." A ~~random~~ urine drug test that screens for a <--
10 ~~random~~ selection of drugs. <--

11 "Prescriber." As defined in the act of October 27, 2014
12 (P.L.2911, No.191), known as the Achieving Better Care by
13 Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP) Act.

14 "Presumptive positive drug test." A urine drug test that is
15 used to identify suspected possible use or non-use of drugs or a
16 drug class that may be followed by a definitive test to
17 specifically identify drugs or metabolites.

18 "Targeted test." A urine drug test ordered at the discretion
19 of a ~~clinician~~ PRESCRIBER, based on observation of the ~~clinician~~ <--
20 PRESCRIBER and related circumstances that enhance clinical <--
21 decision making.

22 "Treatment agreement." A document signed by a prescriber and
23 individual that contains a statement to ensure that the
24 individual understands:

25 (1) Treatment responsibilities.

26 (2) The conditions of medication use.

27 (3) The conditions under which the treatment of the
28 individual may be terminated.

29 (4) The responsibilities of the prescriber.

30 § 52B02. Procedure.

1 (a) Prescriber requirements.--Except as specified in
2 subsection (d), before issuing an individual the first
3 prescription in a single course of treatment for chronic pain
4 with a controlled substance containing an opioid, regardless of
5 whether the dosage is modified during that course of treatment,
6 a prescriber shall:

7 (1) Assess whether the individual has taken or is
8 currently taking a prescription drug for treatment of a
9 substance use disorder.

10 (2) Discuss with the individual:

11 (i) The risks of addiction and overdose associated
12 with the controlled substance containing an opioid.

13 (ii) The increased risk of addiction to a controlled
14 substance if the individual suffers from a mental
15 disorder or substance use disorder.

16 (iii) The dangers of taking a controlled substance
17 containing an opioid with benzodiazepines, alcohol or
18 other central nervous system depressants.

19 (iv) Other information deemed appropriate by the
20 prescriber under 21 CFR 201.57(c)(18) (relating to
21 specific requirements on content and format of labeling
22 for human prescription drug and biological products
23 described in § 201.56(b)(1)).

24 (v) The nonopioid treatment options available for
25 treating chronic noncancer pain, if applicable, that are
26 consistent with the best practices per the Pennsylvania
27 Opioid Prescribing Guidelines.

28 (3) Review and sign a treatment agreement form that
29 includes:

30 (i) The goals of the treatment.

1 (ii) The consent of the individual to a targeted
2 test in a circumstance where the physician determines
3 that a targeted test is medically necessary. The
4 treatment of chronic pain shall be consistent with the
5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, as <--
6 they relate to a baseline test and periodic test as
7 warranted for treatment. PENNSYLVANIA OPIOID PRESCRIBING <--
8 GUIDELINES.

9 (iii) The prescription drug prescribing policies of
10 the prescriber, which policies include:

11 (A) A requirement that the individual take the
12 medication as prescribed.

13 (B) A prohibition on sharing the prescribed
14 medication with other individuals.

15 (iv) A requirement that the individual inform the
16 prescriber about any other controlled substances
17 prescribed or taken by the individual.

18 (v) Any reason why the opioid therapy may be changed
19 or discontinued by the prescriber.

20 (VI) APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL METHODS FOR OPIOIDS THAT <--
21 ARE NO LONGER BEING USED BY THE INDIVIDUAL AS SPECIFIED
22 IN A CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESCRIBER.

23 (4) Obtain written consent for the prescription from the
24 individual. THE PRESCRIBER MAY UTILIZE ELECTRONIC METHODS TO <--
25 OBTAIN THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

26 (5) Record the consent under paragraph (4) on the
27 treatment agreement form under paragraph (3).

28 (b) Treatment agreement form requirements.--The treatment
29 agreement form under subsection (a) (3) shall be maintained by
30 the prescriber in the medical record of the individual and

1 include:

2 (1) The brand name or generic name, quantity and initial
3 dose of the controlled substance containing an opioid being
4 prescribed.

5 (2) A statement indicating that a controlled substance
6 is a drug or other substance that the United States Drug
7 Enforcement Administration has identified as having a
8 potential for abuse.

9 (3) A statement certifying that the prescriber engaged
10 in the discussion under subsection (a) (2).

11 (4) The signature of the individual and the date of
12 signing. THE PRESCRIBER MAY UTILIZE ELECTRONIC METHODS TO <--
13 OBTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE DATE OF
14 SIGNING.

15 (c) Urine drug testing.--

16 (1) A baseline test, periodic test or targeted test
17 shall be used to establish a general assessment for an
18 individual new to treatment for chronic pain and in
19 monitoring adherence to an existing individual treatment
20 plan, as well as to detect the use of a nonprescribed drug.

21 (2) A baseline test shall be required prior to the
22 issuance of the initial prescription for chronic pain and
23 shall include confirmatory or quantitative testing of
24 presumptive positive drug test results.

25 ~~(3) A prescriber may not issue a prescription opioid~~ <--
26 ~~drug for the treatment of chronic pain without first~~
27 ~~obtaining a confirmatory or quantitative testing for~~
28 ~~presumptive positive drug test results prior to the initial~~
29 ~~issuance of a prescription under paragraph (1).~~

30 ~~(4)~~ (3) An individual who is treated for addiction or an <--

1 individual who is considered moderate or high risk by the
2 prescriber shall be tested at least once annually or as
3 frequently as necessary to ensure therapeutic adherence.

4 (d) Exception.--Subsection (c) shall not apply if the
5 treatment of an individual with a controlled substance
6 containing an opioid is associated with or incident to:

7 (1) A medical emergency documented in the medical record
8 of the individual.

9 (2) The management of pain associated with cancer.

10 (3) The use in palliative or hospice care.

11 (4) The professional judgment of the prescriber under
12 subsection (a) (1) and (2).

13 (e) Documentation of exception.--If subsection (d) applies,
14 the prescriber shall document in the individual's medical record
15 the factor under subsection (d) that the prescriber believes
16 applies to the individual.

17 § 52B03. Regulations.

18 (a) Promulgation.--The department shall promulgate temporary
19 regulations within 90 days of the effective date of this
20 subsection. The temporary regulations shall not be subject to:

21 (1) Sections 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the act of
22 July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the
23 Commonwealth Documents Law.

24 (2) Sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of October
25 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth
26 Attorneys Act.

27 (3) The act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as
28 the Regulatory Review Act.

29 (b) Expiration.--The temporary regulations under subsection
30 (a) shall expire on the promulgation of final-form regulations,

1 or two years following the effective date of this section,
2 whichever is later.

3 § 52B04. Penalties.

4 A violation of this chapter by a prescriber shall be subject
5 to sanctions under the prescriber's professional practice act
6 and by the appropriate licensing board.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.