

STATE OF NEW YORK

216

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED, PAULIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to retail clinics

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 230-f to read as follows:

3 § 230-f. Retail clinics. 1. As used in this section, "retail clinic"
4 means a facility or portion of a facility that is operated by any entity
5 that is authorized under the laws of this state to provide professional
6 services to the public and that provides health care services or treat-
7 ment provided by a health care practitioner licensed, certified, regis-
8 tered or authorized to practice under title eight of the education law,
9 acting within his or her lawful scope of practice, that: (a) operates
10 within the space of a retail business operation, such as a pharmacy or a
11 store open to the general public; (b) is labeled, branded, advertised or
12 marketed with the name or symbol of a retail business entity; or (c) is
13 labeled, branded, advertised or marketed with the name or symbol of a
14 business entity, other than a business entity that provides health care
15 services or treatment provided at the facility. However, a facility or
16 portion of a facility shall not be deemed to be a retail clinic if it
17 ordinarily is used only for providing health care services to employees
18 of the retail business operation. A facility shall not be deemed to be
19 a retail clinic if the health care service under title eight of the
20 education law it provides is limited to pharmacy or ophthalmic dispens-
21 ing and ophthalmologic or optometric services provided in connection
22 with ophthalmic dispensing.

23 2. The treatments and services that may be provided by a retail clinic
24 shall be limited to the provision of treatment and services to patients
25 for acute episodic illness or condition; episodic preventive treatment

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD00379-01-1

1 and services such as immunizations; ophthalmic dispensing and ophthalmo-
2 logic or optometric services provided in connection with ophthalmic
3 dispensing; or treatment and services for minor injuries that are not
4 reasonably likely to be life-threatening or potentially disabling or
5 have complications if ambulatory care within the capacity of the retail
6 clinic is provided; but the treatments and services provided by a retail
7 clinic shall not include monitoring or treatment and services over
8 multiple visits over prolonged periods.

9 3. A retail clinic shall be deemed to be a "health care provider" for
10 the purposes of title two-D of this article. A prescriber practicing in
11 a retail clinic shall not be deemed to be in the employ of a pharmacy or
12 practicing in a hospital for purposes of subdivision two of section
13 sixty-eight hundred seven of the education law.

14 4. (a) The commissioner shall make regulations setting forth opera-
15 tional and physical plant standards for retail clinics, which may be
16 different from the regulations otherwise applicable to diagnostic and
17 treatment centers, including, but not limited to:

18 (i) requiring that retail clinics attain and maintain accreditation by
19 an appropriate accrediting entity approved by the commissioner and
20 requiring timely reporting to the department if a retail clinic loses
21 its accreditation;

22 (ii) designating or limiting the treatments and services that may be
23 provided, including limiting the scope of services to the following,
24 provided that such services shall not include monitoring or treatment
25 and services over multiple visits or prolonged periods:

26 (A) the provision of treatment and services to patients for minor
27 acute episodic illnesses or conditions;

28 (B) episodic prevention and wellness treatments and services such as
29 immunizations;

30 (C) ophthalmic dispensing and ophthalmologic or optometric services
31 provided in connection with ophthalmic dispensing;

32 (D) treatment and services for minor injuries that are not reasonably
33 likely to be life threatening or potentially disabling or have compli-
34 cations if ambulatory care within the capacity of the retail clinic is
35 provided;

36 (E) prohibiting the provision of services to patients twenty-four
37 months of age or younger;

38 (iii) requiring retail clinics to accept walk-ins and offer extended
39 business hours;

40 (iv) setting forth guidelines for advertising and signage, which shall
41 include signage indicating that prescriptions and over-the-counter
42 supplies may be purchased by a patient from any business and do not need
43 to be purchased on-site;

44 (v) setting forth guidelines for informed consent, record keeping,
45 referral for treatment and continuity of care, case reporting to the
46 patient's primary care or other health care providers, design,
47 construction, fixtures, and equipment.

48 (b) Such regulations also shall promote and strengthen primary care by
49 requiring retail clinics to:

50 (i) inquire of each patient whether he or she has a primary care
51 provider;

52 (ii) maintain and regularly update a list of local primary care
53 providers and provide such list to each patient who indicates that he or
54 she does not have a primary care provider. Such roster (A) shall be
55 drawn from a list of primary care providers maintained and periodically
56 updated by the department on its website (in searchable form) including

1 the information required in clauses (B) and (C) of this subparagraph,
2 located in the zip code area and adjacent zip code areas of the retail
3 clinic, and may include additional primary care providers added by the
4 retail clinic; (B) shall identify preferred providers who have achieved
5 recognition as a patient centered medical home (pcmh) or other similar
6 designation and a description of what such designation means; and (C)
7 shall include federally qualified health centers and other providers who
8 serve medicaid, low-income and uninsured patients, and people with disa-
9 bilities and shall identify cultural and linguistic capabilities when
10 available;

11 (iii) refer patients to their primary care providers or other health
12 care providers where appropriate;

13 (iv) transmit by electronic means whenever possible, records of
14 services to patients' primary care providers;

15 (v) decline to treat any patient for the same condition or illness
16 more than three times in a year; and

17 (vi) report to the department relevant data, as may be deemed neces-
18 sary by the department, related to services provided and patients
19 served, provided that such reporting shall comply with all privacy laws
20 related to patient data.

21 (c) Retail clinics already in operation at the time this section takes
22 effect must comply with accreditation requirements under this subdivi-
23 sion within one year after the effective date of this section.

24 (d) The department shall routinely review the compliance by retail
25 clinics with the provisions of this section and if a retail clinic fails
26 to comply with the provisions of this section, or regulations adopted
27 pursuant to this section, the department shall have the authority to
28 take enforcement actions under title two of article one of this chapter.

29 (e) In making regulations under this section, the commissioner may
30 consult with a workgroup including, but not limited to, representatives
31 of health care consumers and representatives of professional societies
32 of appropriate health care professionals, including those in primary
33 care and other specialties.

34 5. A retail clinic shall provide treatment without discrimination as
35 to source of payment.

36 6. The department shall provide an annual report which it shall make
37 available on its website; the report shall include locations of retail
38 clinics in the state and shall indicate which clinics are located in
39 medically underserved areas; such report shall also include an analysis
40 as to whether retail clinics have improved access to health care in
41 underserved areas, recommendations related thereto and any other infor-
42 mation the department may deem necessary.

43 7. This section does not authorize any form of ownership or organiza-
44 tion of a retail clinic or practice of any profession that would not
45 otherwise be legal, and does not expand the scope of practice of any
46 health care practitioner. Where any regulation under this section would
47 affect the scope of practice that may be provided in a retail clinic a
48 health care practitioner licensed, registered, certified or authorized
49 to practice under title eight of the education law, the regulation shall
50 be made in consultation with the commissioner of education.

51 8. The host business entity of a retail clinic shall not, directly or
52 indirectly, by contract, policy, communication, incentive or otherwise,
53 influence or seek to influence any clinical decision, policy or practice
54 of any health care practitioner providing any health care service in the
55 retail clinic, including prescribing or recommending drugs, devices or
56 supplies. This subdivision shall not preclude the host business entity

1 from establishing, consistent with this section and applicable law,
2 limitations on or requirements as to the scope of health care services
3 to be provided in the retail clinic or activities to assure maintaining
4 quality standards of health care services. As used in this section,
5 "host business entity" means any retail business organization, retail
6 business entity or business entity within whose space the retail clinic
7 is located or with whose name or symbol the retail clinic is labeled,
8 branded, advertised or marketed.

9 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
10 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the commissioner of
11 health shall make regulations and take other actions reasonably neces-
12 sary to implement this act on that date.