

STATE OF NEW YORK

6183

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 13, 2021

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to directing the commissioner of the department of health to promulgate rules and regulations promoting recovery from opioid abuse and reducing diversion of addiction medicines

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 3309-b to read as follows:

§ 3309-b. Promoting recovery from opioid abuse and reducing diversion of addiction medicines. 1. The commissioner shall, in consultation with the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, promulgate rules and regulations pertaining to individual physicians and group practices including, but not limited to, physician's office-based opioid treatment, opioid treatment programs and any other treatment practices serving more than fifty patients at a time who have a primary or secondary diagnosis of opiate misuse or addiction. Such rules and regulations shall at a minimum include the following provisions:

(a) All patients seeking treatment for opiate use disorder shall be given an orientation including factual information and an easily understood explanation of each addiction medication option approved by the United States food and drug administration. Such education must be documented in the patient record along with documentation regarding the patient's choice of one of the medication options or none of them. Such documentation shall be signed by the patient, or the commissioner may specify some other form of documentation showing that the medical provider made a good faith effort to obtain such informed consent from the patient;

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

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1 (b) If a patient chooses an addiction medication not available through
2 the medical practitioner, such practitioner must make a referral to a
3 treatment setting where the patient can access his or her preferred
4 medication option;

5 (c) The medical provider shall utilize the level of care for alcohol
6 and drug treatment referral web application provided by the office of
7 alcoholism and substance abuse services or another patient assessment
8 instrument approved by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse
9 services to help determine an appropriate level of patient care;

10 (d) In the event that the patient using opiates declines to engage in
11 treatment the medical provider shall provide such patient with informa-
12 tion about accessible harm reduction services;

13 (e) Treatment counseling shall be provided to all individuals for whom
14 an addiction medication is prescribed or dispensed. Such treatment coun-
15 seling may be provided by a qualified addiction professional, as deter-
16 mined by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, employed
17 by the medical practice or through a contract with an office of alcohol-
18 ism and substance abuse services certified treatment program;

19 (f) The medical provider shall develop a treatment plan for each
20 patient and such plan shall be reviewed, at a minimum, every six months.
21 The standards for developing individual treatment plans shall be deter-
22 mined by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services and shall
23 be consistent with the standards used in other office of alcoholism and
24 substance abuse services licensed outpatient treatment programs;

25 (g) The medical provider shall inform patients about available peer
26 recovery support services; and

27 (h) When an addiction medication is not taken under direct clinical
28 supervision, the medical provider shall utilize diversion control prac-
29 tices to ensure such medication is taken as prescribed and not diverted.
30 Such practices shall be determined by the commissioner and shall
31 include:

32 (i) limits on the amount of medication prescribed and the number of
33 refills given to a patient until such patient has established a pattern
34 of reliability; and

35 (ii) minimum toxicology screening standards.

36 2. For all medical providers subject to these rules and regulations,
37 the commissioner shall ensure that providers are monitored for compli-
38 ance. Such monitoring shall be done directly by the department or by an
39 independent organization specified by the commissioner.

40 3. The commissioner shall establish appropriate penalties for medical
41 practitioners who fail to comply with such rules and regulations promul-
42 gated under subdivision one of this section.

43 § 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2022. Effective immediate-
44 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation
45 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
46 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.