STATE OF NEW YORK

5999

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the public health law, in relation to directing the commissioner of health, in consultation with the commissioner of education, the commissioner of mental health, the state board of pharmacy and the commissioner of corrections and community supervision, to promulgate and implement rules and regulations authorizing the use of automated patient dispensing and storage systems for distribution of prescription and non-prescription drugs and medical devices

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 6808 of the education law, as amended by section 2 of part D of chapter 60 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

1. No person, firm, corporation or association shall possess drugs, prescriptions or poisons for the purpose of compounding, dispensing, retailing, wholesaling, or manufacturing, or shall offer drugs, prescriptions or poisons for sale at retail or wholesale unless registered by the department as a pharmacy, wholesaler, manufacturer or outsourcing facility**; provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not prohibit the dispensing and/or storage of prescriptions, drugs or medical devices through the use of an automated patient dispensing and storage system as provided in section two hundred eighty-d of the public health law and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to such section**.

§ 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 280-d to read as follows:

§ 280-d. Automated patient dispensing and storage systems. 1. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of education, the commissioner of mental health, the state board of pharmacy and the

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

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commissioner of corrections and community supervision, shall promulgate rules and regulations to authorize the licensing and use of automated patient dispensing and storage systems as provided in this section which shall include, but not be limited to, requiring that the operator of an automated patient dispensing and storage system holds a registration from the federal drug enforcement agency for the distribution of controlled substances.

2. Definitions. As used in this section:

(a) "Automated drug delivery system" or "ADDS" means a mechanical system that performs operations or activities, other than compounding or administration, relative to the storage, dispensing, or distribution of drugs. An ADDS shall collect, control, and maintain all transaction information to accurately track the movement of drugs into and out of the system for security, accuracy, and accountability.

(b) "Automated patient dispensing and storage system" or "APDSS" means an ADDS for storage and dispensing of drugs directly to patients or to medical personnel for prompt administration to patients pursuant to prior authorization by a pharmacist.

(c) "Covered entity" means:

(i) a "covered entity" as defined in Section 256b of Title 42 of the United States Code; and

(ii) a correctional facility as defined in section two of the correction law.

(d) "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in section thirty-three hundred six of this chapter, a non-prescription drug or over-the-counter medication or supply, and/or a medical device.

(e) "Patient" means an individual for whom medication has been prescribed by any person authorized to prescribe medication pursuant to article one hundred thirty-one, one hundred thirty-one-b or one hundred forty-one of the education law.

3. Pursuant to the rules and regulations authorized by subdivision one of this section, if all of the following conditions are met, a pharmacy located in the state may provide pharmacy services through the use of an automated patient dispensing system to: (i) the patients of a covered entity through an APDSS located on the premises of the covered entity or on the premises of medical professional practices under contract to provide medical services to covered entity patients, which need not be the same location as the pharmacy; and (ii) individual patients as described in subdivision five of this section:

(a) The pharmacy obtains a license from the state board of pharmacy to operate the APDSS at the covered entity or an affiliated site, or at or adjacent to the pharmacy, as applicable. As part of the application, the pharmacy shall provide the address at which the APDSS shall be placed and, if the APDSS is to be installed at a covered entity, identify the covered entity. A separate license shall be required for each location and shall be renewed annually concurrent with the pharmacy license. The application and renewal fee shall be three hundred dollars and may be increased to five hundred dollars. The state board of pharmacy is authorized to lower the renewal fee to not less than two hundred dollars if a lower fee level will provide sufficient resources to support the regulatory activities.

(b) The pharmacy providing the pharmacy services to the patients of a covered entity, including, unless otherwise prohibited by any other law, patients enrolled in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, shall be under contract with that covered entity to provide those pharmacy services through the use of the APDSS.

(c) Drugs stored in an APDSS shall be part of the inventory of the pharmacy providing pharmacy services to the patients and drugs dispensed from the APDSS shall be considered to have been dispensed by that pharmacy.

(d) The pharmacy shall maintain records of the acquisition and disposition of drugs stored in the APDSS separate from other pharmacy records.

(e) The pharmacy shall be solely responsible for the security, operation, and maintenance of the APDSS; provided, however, that an APDSS installed at a correctional facility shall be deemed to be under the dual security and control of the pharmacy and the correctional facility.

(f) The pharmacy shall provide training regarding the operation and use of the APDSS to both pharmacy and covered entity personnel using the system.

(g) The operation of the APDSS shall be under the supervision of a pharmacist licensed pursuant to article one hundred thirty-seven of the education law acting on behalf of the pharmacy providing services to the patients of the covered entity. The pharmacist need not be physically present at the site of the APDSS and may supervise the system electronically.

(h) The state board of pharmacy may issue a license for the operation of an APDSS at an address for which it has issued another site license, including but not limited to drive-through pharmacy areas and other areas adjacent to the physical location occupied by a pharmacy.

(i) The state board of pharmacy, within thirty days after receipt of an application for an APDSS license, shall conduct a pre-licensure inspection at the proposed location of the APDSS. Relocation of the APDSS shall require a new application for licensure. Replacement of an APDSS shall require notice to such board within thirty days.

(j) The APDSS license shall be canceled by operation of law if the underlying pharmacy license is not current, valid, and active. Upon reissuance or reinstatement of the underlying pharmacy license, a new application for an APDSS license shall be submitted to the state board of pharmacy, if so required by such board.

(k) A pharmacy that holds an APDSS license shall advise the state board of pharmacy in writing within thirty days if use of the APDSS is discontinued.

4. (a) An automated patient dispensing and storage system shall collect, control, and maintain all transaction information to accurately track the movement of drugs into and out of the system for security, accuracy, and accountability.

(b) Transaction information shall be made readily available in a downloadable format for review and inspection by individuals authorized by law to review such information. These records shall be maintained by the pharmacy for a minimum of three years.

5. Drugs from an automated patient dispensing and storage system may be dispensed directly to a patient from a drive-through pharmacy aisle or other location adjacent to the physical location occupied by the pharmacy, if all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The pharmacy develops, implements, and annually reviews written policies and procedures with respect to all of the following:

(i) the pharmacy maintains the security of the APDSS and the drugs within that APDSS;

(ii) the pharmacy determines and applies inclusion criteria regarding which drugs are appropriate for placement in the APDSS and for which patients;

(iii) the pharmacy ensures that patients are aware that consultation with a pharmacist is available for any prescription medication, including those delivered via the APDSS;

(iv) the pharmacy describes the assignment of responsibilities to, and training of, pharmacy personnel, and other personnel using the APDSS at the location where the APDSS is placed, regarding maintenance and filling procedures for the APDSS;

(v) the pharmacy orients participating patients on the use of the APDSS, notifying patients when expected prescription medications are not available in the APDSS, and ensuring that patient use of the APDSS does not interfere with delivery of drugs; and

(vi) the pharmacy ensures delivery of drugs to patients expecting to receive them from the APDSS in the event the automated patient dispensing and storage system is disabled or malfunctions.

(b) The automated patient dispensing and storage system shall only be used for patients who have signed a written consent demonstrating their informed consent to receive prescribed drugs from an APDSS and whose use of the APDSS meet the criteria pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

(c) The automated patient dispensing and storage system shall have a means to identify each patient and only release the identified patient's drugs to the patient or the patient's agent.

(d) A pharmacist shall perform all clinical services conducted as part of the dispensing process, including, but not limited to, drug utilization review and consultation.

(e) Drugs shall be dispensed from the automated patient dispensing and storage system only upon authorization from a pharmacist after the pharmacist has reviewed the prescription and the patient's profile for potential contraindicated and adverse drug reactions.

(f) All drugs dispensed from the automated patient dispensing and storage system for the first time shall be accompanied by a consultation conducted by a pharmacist licensed pursuant to article one hundred thirty-seven of the education law in one of the following manners: (i) in person; (ii) through a drive-through prescription dispensing window; (iii) via a telecommunications link that has two-way audio and video; or (iv) through a telephone call between the pharmacist and the patient or the patient's appointed representative with the prescribing physician present for the duration of the call.

(g) The automated patient dispensing and storage system shall include a notice, prominently posted on the automated patient dispensing and storage system, that provides the name, address, and telephone number of the pharmacy that holds the automated patient dispensing and storage system license for that APDSS.

(h) The labels on all drugs dispensed by the automated patient dispensing and storage system shall comply with all New York state and federal requirements for labelling of drugs prescribed and dispensed in this state.

(i) Any complaint, error, or omission involving the automated patient dispensing and storage system shall be reviewed as part of the pharmacy's quality assurance program.

(j) The state board of pharmacy shall not issue a pharmacy more than fifteen licenses for automated patient dispensing and storage system units under this section. The state board of pharmacy may adopt regulations to reduce the number of APDSS licenses that may be issued to a pharmacy.

(k) The pharmacy holding the license for the automated patient dispensing and storage system shall maintain the policies and procedures developed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision for three years after the last date of use of that APDSS.

6. Access to the automated patient dispensing and storage system shall be controlled and tracked using an identification or password system or biosensor. A system that is accessed via a password system shall include a camera that records a picture of the individual accessing the machine. Picture records shall be maintained for a minimum of one hundred eighty days.

7. The automated patient dispensing and storage system shall make a complete and accurate record of all transactions that will include all users accessing the APDSS and all drugs added to, or removed from, the APDSS.

8. The stocking of an automated patient dispensing and storage system shall be performed by a pharmacist. If the APDSS utilizes removable pockets, cards, drawers, similar technology, or unit of use or single dose containers as defined by the United States Pharmacopeia, the stocking system may be done outside of the APDSS and be delivered to the facility if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The task of placing drugs into the removable pockets, cards, drawers, similar technology, or unit of use or single dose containers is performed by a pharmacist, or by an intern pharmacist or a pharmacy technician working under the direct supervision of a pharmacist licensed pursuant to article one hundred thirty-seven of the education law.

(b) The removable pockets, cards, drawers, similar technology, or unit of use or single dose containers are transported between the pharmacy and the APDSS in a secure tamper-evidence container.

(c) The pharmacy, in conjunction with the covered entity, has developed policies and procedures to ensure that the removable pockets, cards, drawers, similar technology, or unit of use or single dose containers are properly placed into the automated patient dispensing and storage system.

9. Review of the drugs contained within, and the operation and maintenance of, the automated patient dispensing and storage system shall be done in accordance with law and shall be the responsibility of the pharmacy. The review shall be conducted on a monthly basis by a pharmacist and shall include a physical inspection of the drugs in the APDSS, an inspection of the APDSS machine for cleanliness, and a review of all transaction records in order to verify the security and accountability of the APDSS.

10. A pharmacy holding an automated patient dispensing and storage system license shall complete an annual self-assessment, performed pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this section, evaluating the pharmacy's compliance with the education law relating to the use of the automated patient dispensing and storage system. All information regarding operation, maintenance, compliance, error, omissions, or complaints pertaining to the APDSS shall be included in the self-assessment.

11. The pharmacy shall comply with all recordkeeping and quality assurance requirements pursuant to this section and article one hundred thirty-seven of the education law and shall maintain those records within the pharmacy holding the APDSS license and separately from other pharmacy records.

12. Rules and regulations providing for the implementation of the provisions of this section within the facilities of all covered entities

shall be implemented within three hundred sixty-five days of the effective date of this section.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.