

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4359--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 3, 2021

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to referring individuals to appropriate service providers for substance use disorders

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

Section 1. Section 2803-u of the public health law, as added by section 1 of part C of chapter 70 of the laws of 2016 and subdivision 1 as amended by section 1 of subpart B of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2803-u. Hospital substance use disorder policies and procedures. 1. The office of [~~alcoholism and substance abuse~~] addiction services and supports, in consultation with the department, shall develop or utilize existing educational materials to be provided to general hospitals to disseminate to individuals with a documented substance use disorder or who appear to have or be at risk for a substance use disorder during discharge planning pursuant to section twenty-eight hundred three-i of this article. Such materials shall include information regarding the various types of harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services, including but not limited to: overdose prevention and syringe exchange services; inpatient, outpatient, and medication-assisted treatment; how to recognize the need for treatment or other substance use disorder services; information for individuals to determine what type and level of care or treatment is most appropriate and what resources are available to them; and any other information the commissioner deems appropriate. General hospitals shall include in their policies and procedures treatment protocols, consistent with medical standards, to be utilized by the emergency departments in general hospitals for the appropriate use of medication-assisted treatment, including buprenorphine, prior to

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

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1 discharge, or referral protocols for evaluation of medication-assisted  
2 treatment when initiation in an emergency department of a general hospi-  
3 tal is not feasible.

4 2. Every general hospital shall: (a) within existing or in addition to  
5 current policies and procedures, develop, maintain and disseminate,  
6 written policies and procedures, for the identification, and assessment  
7 [~~and-referral~~] of individuals with a documented substance use disorder  
8 or who appear to have or be at risk for a substance use disorder as  
9 defined in section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law. Except as provided in  
10 paragraph (c) of this subdivision, such policies and procedures shall  
11 require every hospital to offer treatment, including medication assisted  
12 treatment when deemed necessary, to the individual within seventy-two  
13 hours of such individual being diagnosed with a substance use disorder,  
14 provided, further, that every hospital shall immediately address symp-  
15 toms of withdrawal;

16 (b) establish and implement training, within existing or in addition  
17 to current training programs, for all individuals licensed or certified  
18 pursuant to title eight of the education law who provide direct patient  
19 care regarding the policies and procedures established pursuant to this  
20 section; and

21 (c) except where an individual has come into the hospital under  
22 section 22.09 of the mental hygiene law, if the hospital does not  
23 directly provide substance use disorder services, or the individual  
24 refuses services, then [~~it~~] the hospital shall refer such individuals in  
25 need of substance use disorder services to [~~and-coordinate-with~~  
26 ~~substance-use-disorder-services-programs~~] an appropriate service provid-  
27 er that [~~provide~~] provides behavioral health services, as defined in  
28 section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law, or a hypodermic syringe and  
29 needle exchange program authorized pursuant to section 80.135 of part 80  
30 of title 10 of the New York state codes, rules and regulations, that has  
31 the ability to provide services to the individual within seventy-two  
32 hours.

33 3. Upon commencement of treatment, admission, or discharge of an indi-  
34 vidual with a documented substance use disorder or who appears to have  
35 or be at risk for a substance use disorder, including discharge from the  
36 emergency department, such hospital shall inform the individual of the  
37 availability of the substance use disorder treatment services that may  
38 be available to them through a substance use disorder or harm reduction  
39 services program and, if requested, refer the individual to the appro-  
40 priate services. Such efforts to refer the individual shall be docu-  
41 mented in such individual's medical record.

42 4. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of the  
43 office of [~~alcoholism-and-substance-abuse~~] addiction services and  
44 supports, shall make regulations as may be necessary and proper to carry  
45 out the provisions of this section.

46 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
47 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.