

STATE OF NEW YORK

4640

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 8, 2021

Introduced by Sens. RIVERA, HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to consideration and
prescription of non-opioid treatment alternatives for treatment of
neuromusculoskeletal conditions

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

1 Section 1. Section 3331 of the public health law is amended by adding
2 a new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

3 9. (a) When a patient seeks treatment for any neuromusculoskeletal
4 condition that causes pain, where a practitioner considers an opioid
5 treatment, the practitioner shall consider, discuss with the patient,
6 and, as appropriate, refer or prescribe non-opioid treatment alterna-
7 tives, based on the practitioner's clinical judgment and following
8 generally accepted national professional or treatment guidelines, and
9 consistent with patient preference and consent, before starting a
10 patient on opioid treatment. For the purposes of this subdivision, non-
11 opioid treatment alternatives include, but are not limited to: acupunc-
12 ture, chiropractic, massage therapy, physical therapy, occupational
13 therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, non-opioid medications, interven-
14 tional treatments and non-clinical activities such as exercise. The
15 practitioner shall inform the patient that some treatments may not be
16 covered by the patient's health coverage.

17 (b) The requirements of this subdivision shall not apply for patients
18 being treated under any of the following circumstances: treatment of
19 cancer; hospice or other end-of-life care; post-surgery treatment imme-
20 diately following a surgical procedure; or in a medical emergency. For
21 purposes of this subdivision, "medical emergency" means an acute injury
22 or illness that poses an immediate risk to a person's life or health.

23 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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