STATE OF NEW YORK

5604

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 12, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- 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 establishing the "Sickle Cell Treatment Act"; and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Sickle Cell Treatment Act".

§ 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2807-aa to read as follows:

§ 2807-aa. Sickle cell centers for excellence and outpatient treatment centers. 1. Centers for sickle cell care excellence. The commissioner shall designate five general hospitals or hospices under article forty of this chapter, upon successful application, as centers for sickle cell care excellence. The designations shall be made through an application designed by the department, and based on service, staffing and other criteria as developed by the commissioner. The centers of excellence shall provide specialized sickle cell disease care, treatment, palliative care, education and related services and shall conduct specialized research into the care, treatment and management of sickle cell disease. Designation as a center for sickle cell care excellence shall not entitle a center to enhanced reimbursement, but may be utilized in outreach and other promotional activities. Each center for sickle cell care excellence shall affiliate and cooperate with major centers of higher learning, including medical colleges, and life science research institutes in the state. The state university shall enter into appropriate legal agreements to enable this cooperation. Each center for sickle cell care excellence shall receive two hundred thousand dollars per year from the department, from amounts appropriated for that purpose, to be used on sickle cell disease research.

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

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2. Outpatient treatment centers. The commissioner shall designate ten hospitals, distributed based on sickle cell patient population concentrations, as sickle cell outpatient treatment centers which shall provide patients treatment for sickle cell disease as an outpatient. Each sickle cell outpatient treatment center shall receive one hundred thousand dollars per year from the department, from amounts appropriated for that purpose, to be used to ensure the proper management and equipping of the centers to care for sickle cell patients.

§ 3. Subdivision 8 of section 3331 of the public health law, as added by section 7-a of part D of chapter 57 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

8. No opioids shall be prescribed to a patient initiating or being maintained on opioid treatment for pain which has lasted more than three months or past the time of normal tissue healing, unless the medical record contains a written treatment plan that follows generally accepted national professional or governmental guidelines. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply in the case of patients who are being treated for cancer **or sickle cell disease** that is not in remission, who are in hospice or other end-of-life care, or whose pain is being treated as part of palliative care practices.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.