

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4380

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 4, 2025

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 limiting the off label use of antipsychotic drugs with black box warnings on elderly patients with dementia; and to amend the education law, in relation to professional medical misconduct

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section  
2 280-d to read as follows:

3 § 280-d. Use of antipsychotic drugs on elderly patients with dementia.

4 1. As used in this section:

5 (a) "off label" means a medical practice in which a physician  
6 prescribes a drug for a different medical purpose than the one for which  
7 such drug is approved for;

8 (b) "black box warning" means a warning issued by the federal Food and  
9 Drug Administration and placed on the package insert of a prescription  
10 drug that may be fatal or cause server side effects;

11 (c) "chemical restraint" means when an antipsychotic drug that  
12 provides no medical benefit to a patient with dementia and is used to  
13 sedate such patient, control such patient's behavior or restrict such  
14 patient's movement;

15 (d) "antipsychotic drug" means any typical or atypical antipsychotic  
16 drug that is intended to be used on patients with mental illness that  
17 require a black box warning and shall include but not be limited to the  
18 following:

19 (i) Typical antipsychotic drugs: haloperidol, loxapine, thioridazine,  
20 molindone, thiothixene, fluphenazine, trifluoperazine, chlorpromazine,  
21 perphenazine, or promozide; or

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

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1 (ii) Atypical antipsychotic drugs: aripiprazole, lumapeterone, clozar-  
2 il, iloperidone, ziprasidone, paliperidone, lurasidone, brexipiprazole,  
3 risperidone, asenapine, quetiapine, cariprazine, or olanzapine; and

4 (e) "patient" means an elderly individual with dementia who is:

5 (i) a resident of a residential health care facility as defined in  
6 article twenty-eight of this chapter or an adult care facility certified  
7 under section four hundred sixty-one-b of the social services law; or

8 (ii) in the care of a hospital as defined in article twenty-eight of  
9 this chapter, a facility as defined in article twenty of this chapter or  
10 any other health care facility who care for individuals with dementia.

11 2. No antipsychotic drug that contains a black box warning shall be  
12 used for an off label purpose on a patient known to have dementia or to  
13 chemically restrain a patient known to have dementia. An order for an  
14 antipsychotic drug may only be issued in an emergency situation and by a  
15 health care professional who specializes in dementia or is specifically  
16 trained in the treatment of dementia patients if such a patient is  
17 agitated and where it is reasonably necessary to protect the life,  
18 health or safety of the patient or another person. Where an order is  
19 made under this subdivision, the health care professional shall imme-  
20 diately record the use of the antipsychotic drug, the reason for the  
21 use, and the dosage, in the patient's medical record; and shall promptly  
22 notify the patient or the patient's lawful representative who would have  
23 had the authority to consent that such drug with a black box warning was  
24 used and any family member required to be notified under this section  
25 and record such notifications in the patient's medical record.

26 3. This section does not increase the lawful scope of practice of any  
27 health care professional and does not diminish or impair any requirement  
28 for or regulation of consent to health care treatment. A health care  
29 professional who fails to comply with the provisions of this section may  
30 be found guilty of professional misconduct pursuant to article one  
31 hundred thirty-one-a of the education law.

32 4. The commissioner may make rules or regulations to implement the  
33 provisions of this section.

34 § 2. Section 6530 of the education law is amended by adding a new  
35 subdivision 51 to read as follows:

36 51. Failing to comply with the provisions of section two hundred  
37 eighty-d of the public health law.

38 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
39 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or  
40 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of  
41 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed  
42 on or before such effective date.