STATE OF NEW YORK

1578--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 10, 2025

Introduced by Sens. SANDERS, ASHBY, CLEARE, COMRIE, FERNANDEZ, GIANARIS, JACKSON, KRUEGER, MAY, MAYER, MYRIE, PARKER, RAMOS, ROLISON, SEPULVEDA, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the "Syd O. Sotillo Sickle Cell Treatment Act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Syd O. Sotillo Sickle Cell Treatment Act".

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

§ 2807-bb. 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 with a minimum of two centers north of Putnam and Orange counties 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 insti-

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

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tutes 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 five hundred thousand dollars per year from the department, from amounts appropriated for that purpose, to be used on sickle cell disease research.

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 two hundred fifty 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~~] **subdivision** shall not apply in the case of patients who are being treated for **sickle cell disease or** cancer 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.