

2022 -- H 7874

LC005216

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Felix, McGaw, Batista, Donovan, Ranglin-Vassell, and Kislak

Date Introduced: March 04, 2022

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5-19.1 of the General Laws entitled "Pharmacies" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3 **5-19.1-36. Tobacco cessation therapy prescriptive authority.**

4 (a) A pharmacist who is licensed pursuant to this chapter and who meets the requirements  
5 of this section may prescribe and dispense FDA-approved tobacco cessation drug therapies to a  
6 qualified patient pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board of pharmacy, subject to the  
7 approval of the director of health, in consultation with the director of behavioral healthcare,  
8 developmental disabilities and hospitals.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section, "qualified patient" means a patient who:

10 (1) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

11 (2) Is willing to participate in a structured tobacco cessation program consisting of an initial  
12 evaluation and appropriate follow-up visits with the pharmacist prescribing tobacco cessation  
13 products; and

14 (3) Has been educated on symptoms of nicotine toxicity, common and/or severe adverse  
15 effects of prescribed medication(s), and when to seek medical treatment.

16 (c) Prior to prescribing tobacco cessation products, the pharmacist shall successfully  
17 complete a course on tobacco cessation therapy taught by a provider accredited by the Accreditation  
18 Council for Pharmacy Education or by a comparable provider recognized by the board of pharmacy.

19 (d) The pharmacist shall refer high-risk patients or patients with an identified

1 contraindication to FDA-approved tobacco cessation drug therapies to the patient's primary care  
2 provider, as applicable, or to another provider, as appropriate.

3 (e) All pharmacists participating in prescribing therapy for tobacco cessation shall follow  
4 the US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Clinical Practice  
5 Guideline: Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update (or subsequent updates as they  
6 become available), or the most updated standard of care as approved by the board of pharmacy,  
7 subject to the approval of the director of health, in consultation with the director of behavioral  
8 healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals.

9 (1) Pharmacists will implement the Five (5) A's (ask, advise, assess, assist, arrange) to help  
10 patients quit using all forms of tobacco.

11 (2) Pharmacists' services will include an educational component to include counseling on  
12 medication therapies and cessation strategies as well as referral to sources provided by the Rhode  
13 Island department of health.

14 (f) Notification of the patient screening, the prescription record and the follow-up care plan  
15 shall be provided to the patient's primary care provider, as applicable, within five (5) business days  
16 following the prescribing of a tobacco cessation product.

17 (g) The definition of a qualified patient is subject to adaptation pursuant to rules and  
18 regulations adopted by the board of pharmacy, subject to the approval of the director of the  
19 department of health, in consultation with the director of the department of behavioral healthcare,  
20 developmental disabilities and hospitals.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

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- 1           This act would authorize a licensed pharmacist, who successfully completes a course on
- 2 tobacco cessation therapy, to prescribe and dispense FDA-approved tobacco cessation drug
- 3 products to a qualified patient pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board of pharmacy.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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