
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 112 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY YAW, SCAVELLO, LANGERHOLC, FOLMER, K. WARD,
STEFANO, BAKER, COSTA, KILLION, HAYWOOD, REGAN, YUDICHAK AND
BROWNE, JANUARY 23, 2019

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
JANUARY 23, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in prescribing opioids to minors,
3 providing for prescribing opioids to individuals and further
4 providing for definitions, for prohibition and for procedure;
5 and making editorial changes.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The heading of Chapter 52A of Title 35 of the
9 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

10 CHAPTER 52A

11 PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS TO [MINORS] INDIVIDUALS

12 Section 2. The definitions of "medical emergency" and
13 "minor" in section 52A01 of Title 35 are amended and the section
14 is amended by adding a definition to read:

15 § 52A01. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 * * *

2 "Health care facility." The term shall have the same meaning
3 as provided in section 103 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130,
4 No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act.

5 * * *

6 "Medical emergency." A situation which, in a prescriber's
7 good faith professional judgment, creates an immediate threat of
8 serious risk to the life or physical health of [a minor] an
9 individual.

10 "Minor." An individual under 18 years of age. The term
11 excludes [an individual] a minor who is [emancipated by:

- 12 (1) marrying;
13 (2) entering the armed forces of the United States;
14 (3) being employed and self-sustaining; or
15 (4) otherwise being independent from the care and
16 control of the individual's parent, guardian or custodian.]:

- 17 (1) married or has been married;
18 (2) pregnant or has been pregnant;
19 (3) a member of the armed forces of the United States;

20 or

- 21 (4) legally emancipated.

22 * * *

23 Section 3. Section 52A03 of Title 35 is amended to read:

24 § 52A03. Prohibition.

25 (a) Proscription.--A prescriber may not do any of the
26 following:

27 (1) Prescribe to [a minor] an individual a controlled
28 substance containing an opioid unless the prescriber complies
29 with section 52A04 (relating to procedure).

30 (2) Except as set forth in subsection (b) and subject to

1 section 52A04(c)(1), prescribe to [a minor] an individual
2 more than a seven-day supply of a controlled substance
3 containing an opioid.

4 (b) Exception.--Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), a
5 prescriber may prescribe to [a minor] an individual more than a
6 seven-day supply of a controlled substance containing an opioid
7 if any of the following apply:

8 (1) In the professional medical judgment of the
9 prescriber, more than a seven-day supply of a controlled
10 substance containing an opioid is required to stabilize the
11 [minor's] individual's acute medical condition. In order for
12 this paragraph to apply, the prescriber must:

13 (i) document the acute medical condition in the
14 [minor's] individual's record with the prescriber; and

15 (ii) indicate the reason why a non-opioid
16 alternative is not appropriate to address the acute
17 medical condition.

18 (2) The prescription is for:

19 (i) management of pain associated with cancer;

20 (ii) use in palliative or hospice care; or

21 (iii) management of chronic pain not associated with
22 cancer.

23 Section 4. Section 52A04 of Title 35, amended October 24,
24 2018 (P.L.650, No.93), is amended to read:

25 § 52A04. Procedure.

26 (a) Requirements.--Except as set forth in subsection (b),
27 before issuing [a minor] an individual the first prescription in
28 a single course of treatment for a controlled substance
29 containing an opioid, regardless of whether the dosage is
30 modified during that course of treatment, a prescriber shall do

1 all of the following:

2 (1) Assess whether the [minor] individual has taken or
3 is currently taking prescription drugs for treatment of a
4 substance use disorder.

5 (2) Discuss with the [minor and] individual or, if the
6 individual is a minor, with the minor and the minor's parent
7 or guardian or with an authorized adult, all of the
8 following:

9 (i) The risks of addiction and overdose associated
10 with the controlled substance containing an opioid.

11 (ii) The increased risk of addiction to controlled
12 substances to individuals suffering from mental or
13 substance use disorders.

14 (iii) The dangers of taking a controlled substance
15 containing an opioid with benzodiazepines, alcohol or
16 other central nervous system depressants.

17 (iv) Other information in the patient counseling
18 information section of the labeling for controlled
19 substances containing an opioid required under 21 C.F.R.
20 201.57(c)(18) (relating to specific requirements on
21 content and format of labeling for human prescription
22 drug and biological products described in § 201.56(b)(1))
23 deemed necessary by the prescriber.

24 (3) [Obtain] In the case of a minor, obtain written
25 consent for the prescription from the minor's parent or
26 guardian or from an authorized adult. The prescriber shall
27 record the consent on the form under section 52A02(b)(1)
28 (relating to administration). The following apply:

29 (i) The form must contain all of the following:

30 (A) The brand name or generic name and quantity

1 of the controlled substance containing an opioid
2 being prescribed and the amount of the initial dose.

3 (B) A statement indicating that a controlled
4 substance is a drug or other substance that the
5 United States Drug Enforcement Administration has
6 identified as having a potential for abuse.

7 (C) A statement certifying that the prescriber
8 engaged in the discussion under paragraph (2).

9 (D) The number of refills authorized by the
10 prescription under section 52A03(b) (relating to
11 prohibition).

12 (E) The signature of the minor's parent or
13 guardian or of an authorized adult and the date of
14 signing.

15 (ii) The form shall be maintained in the minor's
16 record with the prescriber.

17 (b) Exception.--Subsection (a) does not apply if the
18 [minor's] individual's treatment with a controlled substance
19 containing an opioid meets any of the following criteria:

20 (1) The treatment is associated with or incident to a
21 medical emergency as documented in the [minor's] individual's
22 medical record.

23 (2) In the prescriber's professional judgment, complying
24 with subsection (a) with respect to the [minor's]
25 individual's treatment would be detrimental to the [minor's]
26 individual's health or safety. The prescriber shall document
27 in the [minor's] individual's medical record the factor or
28 factors which the prescriber believed constituted cause for
29 not fulfilling the requirements of subsection (a).

30 (3) The medical treatment is rendered while the minor

1 remains admitted to a licensed health care facility or
2 remains in observation status in a licensed health care
3 facility.

4 (4) The prescriber is continuing a treatment initiated
5 by another member of the prescriber's practice, the
6 prescriber who initiated the treatment followed the
7 procedures outlined in subsection (a) and the prescriber who
8 is continuing the treatment is not changing the therapy in
9 any way other than dosage.

10 (c) Limited prescription.--If the individual who signs the
11 consent form under subsection (a) (3) is an authorized adult, the
12 prescriber:

13 (1) may prescribe not more than a single, 72-hour
14 supply; and

15 (2) shall indicate on the prescription the quantity that
16 is to be dispensed pursuant to the prescription.

17 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 180 days.