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HOUSE BILL NO. 1934

Offered January 8, 2003

Prefiled January 7, 2003

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia, relating to administration of controlled substances by physical therapists.

Patron—Nixon

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-3408. Professional use by practitioners.

A practitioner of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry, or veterinary medicine or a licensed nurse practitioner pursuant to § 54.1-2957.01, a licensed physician assistant pursuant to § 54.1-2952.1, or a TPA-certified optometrist pursuant to Article 5 (§ 54.1-3222 et seq.) of Chapter 32 of this title shall only prescribe, dispense, or administer controlled substances in good faith for medicinal or therapeutic purposes within the course of his professional practice.

The prescribing practitioner's order may be on a written prescription or pursuant to an oral prescription as authorized by this chapter. The prescriber may administer drugs and devices, or he may cause them to be administered by a nurse, physician assistant or intern under his direction and supervision, or he may prescribe and cause drugs and devices to be administered to patients in state-owned or state-operated hospitals or facilities licensed as hospitals by the Board of Health or psychiatric hospitals licensed by the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board by other persons who have been trained properly to administer drugs and who administer drugs only under the control and supervision of the prescriber or a pharmacist or a prescriber may cause drugs and devices to be administered to patients by emergency medical services personnel who have been certified and authorized to administer such drugs and devices pursuant to Board of Health regulations governing emergency medical services and who are acting within the scope of such certification. A prescriber may authorize a certified respiratory therapy practitioner as defined in § 54.1-2954 to administer by inhalation controlled substances used in inhalation or respiratory therapy.

Pursuant to an oral or written order or standing protocol, the prescriber, who is authorized by state or federal law to possess and administer radiopharmaceuticals in the scope of his practice, may authorize a nuclear medicine technologist to administer, under his supervision, radiopharmaceuticals used in the diagnosis or treatment of disease.

Pursuant to an oral or written order or standing protocol issued by the prescriber within the course of his professional practice, such prescriber may authorize registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to possess (i) epinephrine for administration in treatment of emergency medical conditions and (ii) heparin and sterile normal saline to use for the maintenance of intravenous access lines.

Pursuant to an oral or written order or standing protocol issued by the prescriber within the course of his professional practice, such prescriber may authorize licensed physical therapists to possess and administer topical corticosteroids, topical lidocaine, and any other Schedule VI topical drug.

Pursuant to a written order or standing protocol issued by the prescriber within the course of his professional practice, such prescriber may authorize, with the consent of the parents as defined in § 22.1-1, an employee of a school board who is trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon to assist with the administration of insulin or administer glucagon to a student diagnosed as having diabetes and who requires insulin injections during the school day or for whom glucagon has been prescribed for the emergency treatment of hypoglycemia. Such authorization shall only be effective when a licensed nurse, nurse practitioner, physician or physician assistant is not present to perform the administration of the medication.

A prescriber may authorize, pursuant to a protocol approved by the Board of Nursing, the administration of vaccines to adults for immunization, when a practitioner with prescriptive authority is not physically present, (i) by licensed pharmacists, (ii) by registered nurses, or (iii) licensed practical nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a registered nurse. A prescriber acting on behalf of and in accordance with established protocols of the Department of Health may authorize the administration of vaccines to any person by a pharmacist or nurse when the prescriber is not physically present.

A dentist may cause Schedule VI topical drugs to be administered under his direction and supervision by either a dental hygienist or by an authorized agent of the dentist.

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HB1934

59 This section shall not prevent the administration of drugs by a person who has satisfactorily
60 completed a training program for this purpose approved by the Board of Nursing and who administers
61 such drugs in accordance with a physician's instructions pertaining to dosage, frequency, and manner of
62 administration, and in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy relating to
63 security and record keeping, when the drugs administered would be normally self-administered by (i) a
64 resident of a facility licensed or certified by the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance
65 Abuse Services Board; (ii) a resident of any assisted living facility which is licensed by the Department
66 of Social Services; (iii) a resident of the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision
67 Impaired; (iv) a resident of a facility approved by the Board or Department of Juvenile Justice for the
68 placement of children in need of services or delinquent or alleged delinquent youth; (v) a program
69 participant of an adult day-care center licensed by the Department of Social Services; or (vi) a resident
70 of any facility authorized or operated by a state or local government whose primary purpose is not to
71 provide health care services.

72 In addition, this section shall not prevent the administration of drugs by a person who administers
73 such drugs in accordance with a physician's instructions pertaining to dosage, frequency, and manner of
74 administration and with written authorization of a parent, and in accordance with school board
75 regulations relating to training, security and record keeping, when the drugs administered would be
76 normally self-administered by a student of a Virginia public school. Training for such persons shall be
77 accomplished through a program approved by the local school boards, in consultation with the local
78 departments of health.

79 Nothing in this title shall prohibit the administration of normally self-administered oral or topical
80 drugs by unlicensed individuals to a person in his private residence.

81 This section shall not interfere with any prescriber issuing prescriptions in compliance with his
82 authority and scope of practice and the provisions of this section to a Board agent for use pursuant to
83 subsection G of § 18.2-258.1. Such prescriptions issued by such prescriber shall be deemed to be valid
84 prescriptions.

85 Nothing in this title shall prevent dialysis care technicians, in the ordinary course of their duties in a
86 Medicare-certified renal dialysis facility, from administering heparin, topical needle site anesthetics,
87 dialysis solutions and sterile normal saline solution for the purpose of facilitating renal dialysis
88 treatment, provided such administration of medications occurs under the orders of a licensed physician
89 and under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed registered nurse. The dialysis care
90 technician administering the medications must have been trained in renal dialysis practices and
91 procedures by a licensed nurse, and must have demonstrated competency as evidenced by satisfactory
92 completion of a training program in accordance with the Core Curriculum for the Dialysis Technician,
93 also known as the Amgen Core Curriculum, or a comparable education and training curriculum.