

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2015 SESSION

CHAPTER 517

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2522.1, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-2522.2, relating to the Prescription Monitoring Program; requirements for dispensers.

[H 1841]

Approved March 23, 2015

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2522.1, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-2522.2 as follows:

§ 54.1-2522.1. (Effective July 1, 2015) Requirements of prescribers.

A. Any prescriber who is licensed in the Commonwealth to treat human patients and is authorized pursuant to §§ 54.1-3303 and 54.1-3408 to issue a prescription for a covered substance shall be registered with the Prescription Monitoring Program by the Department of Health Professions ~~upon filing an application for licensure or renewal of licensure, if the prescriber is not already registered.~~

B. Prescribers registered with the Prescription Monitoring Program shall, at the time of initiating a new course of treatment to a human patient that includes the prescribing of benzodiazepine or an opiate anticipated *at the onset of treatment* to last more than 90 consecutive days ~~and for which a treatment agreement is entered into~~, request information from the Director for the purpose of determining what, if any, other covered substances are currently prescribed to the patient. In addition, any prescriber who holds a special identification number from the Drug Enforcement Administration authorizing the prescribing of controlled substances approved for use in opioid addiction therapy shall, prior to or as a part of execution of a treatment agreement with the patient, request information from the Director for the purpose of determining what, if any, other covered substances the patient is currently being prescribed. Nothing in this section shall prohibit prescribers from making additional periodic requests for information from the Director as may be required by routine prescribing practices.

C. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources may identify and publish a list of benzodiazepines or opiates that have a low potential for abuse by human patients. Prescribers who prescribe such identified benzodiazepines or opiates shall not be required to meet the provisions of subsection B. In addition, a prescriber shall not be required to meet the provisions of subsection B if the course of treatment arises from pain management relating to dialysis or cancer treatments.

§ 54.1-2522.2. Requirements for dispensers.

The Department shall register every dispenser licensed by the Board of Pharmacy pursuant to Article 3 (§ 54.1-3310 et seq.) of Chapter 33 with the Prescription Monitoring Program.

2. That the provisions of this act amending subsection A of § 54.1-2522.1 of the Code of Virginia and adding a section numbered 54.1-2522.2 shall become effective on January 1, 2016.