CHAPTER 221

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

SENATE BILL 18-022

BY SENATOR(S) Tate and Aguilar, Lambert, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Guzman, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Priola, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pettersen and Kennedy, Singer, Bridges, Buckner, Esgar, Exum, Hansen, Lee, Lontine, Michaelson Jenet, Pabon, Roberts, Rosenthal, Valdez, Young, Duran.

AN ACT

CONCERNING CLINICAL PRACTICE MEASURES FOR SAFER OPIOID PRESCRIBING.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-32-107.5, add (3) as follows:

- 12-32-107.5. Prescriptions requirement to advise patients limits on opioid prescriptions repeal. (3) (a) A PODIATRIST SHALL NOT PRESCRIBE MORE THAN A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY OF AN OPIOID TO A PATIENT WHO HAS NOT HAD AN OPIOID PRESCRIPTION IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BY THAT PODIATRIST, AND MAY EXERCISE DISCRETION TO INCLUDE A SECOND FILL FOR A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY. THE LIMITS ON INITIAL PRESCRIBING DO NOT APPLY IF, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE PODIATRIST, THE PATIENT:
- (I) Has chronic pain that typically lasts longer than ninety days or past the time of normal healing, as determined by the podiatrist, or following transfer of care from another podiatrist who prescribed an opioid to the patient;
- (II) Has been diagnosed with cancer and is experiencing cancer-related pain; or
- (III) IS EXPERIENCING POST-SURGICAL PAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS.
- (b) Prior to prescribing the second fill of any opioid prescription pursuant to this section, a podiatrist must comply with the requirements

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

of section 12-42.5-404(3.6). Failure to comply with section 12-42.5-404(3.6) constitutes unprofessional conduct under section 12-32-107 only if the podiatrist repeatedly fails to comply.

- (c) A podiatrist licensed pursuant to this article 32 may prescribe opioids electronically.
- (d) A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (3) DOES NOT CREATE A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION OR SERVE AS THE BASIS OF A CAUSE OF ACTION. A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE NEGLIGENCE PER SE OR CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE PER SE AND DOES NOT ALONE ESTABLISH A STANDARD OF CARE. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION DOES NOT ALONE ESTABLISH AN ABSOLUTE DEFENSE TO ANY ALLEGED BREACH OF THE STANDARD OF CARE.
 - (e) This subsection (3) is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-35-114 as follows:

- 12-35-114. Dentists may prescribe drugs surgical operations anesthesia limits on opioid prescriptions repeal. (1) A licensed dentist is authorized to prescribe drugs or medicine; perform surgical operations; administer, pursuant to board rules, local anesthesia, analgesia including nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation, medication prescribed or administered for the relief of anxiety or apprehension, minimal sedation, moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia; and use appliances as necessary to the proper practice of dentistry. A dentist shall not prescribe, distribute, or give to any person, including himself or herself, any habit-forming drug or any controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-102 (5) C-R-S-, or as contained in schedule II of 21 U.S.C. sec. 812, other than in the course of legitimate dental practice and pursuant to the rules promulgated by the board regarding controlled substance record keeping.
- (2) (a) A DENTIST SHALL NOT PRESCRIBE MORE THAN A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY OF AN OPIOID TO A PATIENT WHO HAS NOT HAD AN OPIOID PRESCRIPTION IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BY THAT DENTIST, AND MAY EXERCISE DISCRETION TO INCLUDE A SECOND FILL FOR A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY. THE LIMITS ON INITIAL PRESCRIBING DO NOT APPLY IF, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE DENTIST, THE PATIENT:
- (I) Has chronic pain that typically lasts longer than ninety days or past the time of normal healing, as determined by the dentist, or following transfer of care from another dentist who prescribed an opioid to the patient:
- (II) Has been diagnosed with cancer and is experiencing cancer-related pain; or
- (III) IS EXPERIENCING POST-SURGICAL PAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS.
- (b) Prior to prescribing the second fill of any opioid prescription pursuant to this section, a dentist must comply with the requirements of section 12-42.5-404 (3.6). Failure to comply with section 12-42.5-404 (3.6)

CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE UNDER SECTION 12-35-129 ONLY IF THE DENTIST REPEATEDLY FAILS TO COMPLY.

- (c) A dentist licensed pursuant to this article 35 may prescribe opioids electronically.
- (d) A violation of this subsection (2) does not create a private right of action or serve as the basis of a cause of action. A violation of this section does not constitute negligence per se or contributory negligence per se and does not alone establish a standard of care. Compliance with this section does not alone establish an absolute defense to any alleged breach of the standard of care.
 - (e) This subsection (2) is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 12-36-117.6 as follows:

- 12-36-117.6. Prescribing opiates limitations repeal. (1) (a) A PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SHALL NOT PRESCRIBE MORE THAN A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY OF AN OPIOID TO A PATIENT WHO HAS NOT HAD AN OPIOID PRESCRIPTION IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BY THAT PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, AND MAY EXERCISE DISCRETION TO INCLUDE A SECOND FILL FOR A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY. THE LIMITS ON INITIAL PRESCRIBING DO NOT APPLY IF, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, THE PATIENT:
- (I) HAS CHRONIC PAIN THAT TYPICALLY LASTS LONGER THAN NINETY DAYS OR PAST THE TIME OF NORMAL HEALING, AS DETERMINED BY THE PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, OR FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF CARE FROM ANOTHER PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WHO PRESCRIBED AN OPIOID TO THE PATIENT;
- (II) Has been diagnosed with cancer and is experiencing cancer-related pain;
- (III) IS EXPERIENCING POST-SURGICAL PAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS; OR
- (IV) IS UNDERGOING PALLIATIVE CARE OR HOSPICE CARE FOCUSED ON PROVIDING THE PATIENT WITH RELIEF FROM SYMPTOMS, PAIN, AND STRESS RESULTING FROM A SERIOUS ILLNESS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE.
- (b) Prior to prescribing the second fill of any opioid prescription pursuant to this section, a physician or physician assistant must comply with the requirements of section 12-42.5-404 (3.6). Failure to comply with section 12-42.5-404 (3.6) constitutes unprofessional conduct under section 12-36-117 only if the physician or physician assistant repeatedly fails to comply.
- (2) A PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 36 MAY PRESCRIBE OPIOIDS ELECTRONICALLY.
 - (3) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CREATE A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION

OR SERVE AS THE BASIS OF A CAUSE OF ACTION. A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE NEGLIGENCE PER SE OR CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE PER SE AND DOES NOT ALONE ESTABLISH A STANDARD OF CARE. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION DOES NOT ALONE ESTABLISH AN ABSOLUTE DEFENSE TO ANY ALLEGED BREACH OF THE STANDARD OF CARE.

(4) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-38-111.6, add (7.5) as follows:

- 12-38-111.6. Prescriptive authority advanced practice nurses limits on opioid prescriptions repeal. (7.5) (a) An advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority pursuant to this section shall not prescribe more than a seven-day supply of an opioid to a patient who has not had an opioid prescription in the last twelve months by that advance practice nurse, and may exercise discretion to include a second fill for a seven-day supply. The limits on initial prescribing do not apply if, in the judgment of the advanced practice nurse, the patient:
- (I) HAS CHRONIC PAIN THAT TYPICALLY LASTS LONGER THAN NINETY DAYS OR PAST THE TIME OF NORMAL HEALING, AS DETERMINED BY THE ADVANCE PRACTICE NURSE, OR FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF CARE FROM ANOTHER ADVANCE PRACTICE NURSE WHO PRESCRIBED AN OPIOID TO THE PATIENT;
- (II) Has been diagnosed with cancer and is experiencing cancer-related pain;
- (III) IS EXPERIENCING POST-SURGICAL PAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS; OR
- (IV) Is undergoing palliative care or hospice care focused on providing the patient with relief from symptoms, pain, and stress resulting from a serious illness in order to improve quality of life.
- (b) Prior to prescribing the second fill of any opioid prescription pursuant to this section, an advanced practice nurse must comply with the requirements of section 12-42.5-404 (3.6). Failure to comply with section 12-42.5-404 (3.6) constitutes grounds for discipline under section 12-38-117 only if the advanced practice nurse repeatedly fails to comply.
- (c) An advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority pursuant to this section may prescribe opioids electronically.
- (d) A violation of this subsection (7.5) does not create a private right of action or serve as the basis of a cause of action. A violation of this section does not constitute negligence per se or contributory negligence per se and does not alone establish a standard of care. Compliance with this section does not alone establish an absolute defense to any alleged breach of the standard of care.
 - (e) This subsection (7.5) is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-40-109.5, add (4) as follows:

- 12-40-109.5. Use of prescription and nonprescription drugs limits on opioid prescriptions repeal. (4) (a) An optometrist shall not prescribe more than a seven-day supply of an opioid to a patient who has not had an opioid prescription in the last twelve months by that optometrist, and may exercise discretion to include a second fill for a seven-day supply. The limits on initial prescribing do not apply if, in the judgment of the optometrist, the patient:
- (I) HAS CHRONIC PAIN THAT TYPICALLY LASTS LONGER THAN NINETY DAYS OR PAST THE TIME OF NORMAL HEALING, AS DETERMINED BY THE OPTOMETRIST, OR FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF CARE FROM ANOTHER OPTOMETRIST WHO PRESCRIBED AN OPIOID TO THE PATIENT;
- (II) Has been diagnosed with cancer and is experiencing cancer-related pain; or
- (III) IS EXPERIENCING POST-SURGICAL PAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS.
- (b) Prior to prescribing the second fill of any opioid prescription pursuant to this section, an optometrist must comply with the requirements of section 12-42.5-404 (3.6). Failure to comply with section 12-42.5-404 (3.6) constitutes unprofessional conduct under section 12-40-118 only if the optometrist repeatedly fails to comply.
- (c) An optometrist licensed pursuant to this article $40\,\mathrm{May}$ prescribe opioids electronically.
- (d) A violation of this subsection (4) does not create a private right of action or serve as the basis of a cause of action. A violation of this section does not constitute negligence per se or contributory negligence per se and does not alone establish a standard of care. Compliance with this section does not alone establish an absolute defense to any alleged breach of the standard of care.
 - (e) This subsection (4) is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.
- **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-42.5-404, **amend** (3)(b); and **add** (3.6) and (8) as follows:
- **12-42.5-404. Program operation access rules definitions repeal.** (3) The program is available for query only to the following persons or groups of persons:
- (b) Any practitioner with the statutory authority to prescribe controlled substances, or an individual designated by the practitioner to act on his or her behalf in accordance with section 12-42.5-403 (1.5)(b), to the extent the query relates to a current patient of the practitioner. The practitioner or his or her designee SHALL IDENTIFY HIS OR HER AREA OF HEALTH CARE SPECIALTY OR PRACTICE UPON THE INITIAL QUERY OF THE PROGRAM.

- (3.6) (a) Each practitioner or his or her designee shall query the program prior to prescribing the second fill for an opioid unless the patient receiving the prescription:
- (I) Is receiving the opioid in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, residential facility, or correctional facility;
- (II) Has been diagnosed with cancer and is experiencing cancer-related pain;
 - (III) IS UNDERGOING PALLIATIVE CARE OR HOSPICE CARE;
- (IV) IS EXPERIENCING POST-SURGICAL PAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS;
- (V) IS RECEIVING TREATMENT DURING A NATURAL DISASTER OR DURING AN INCIDENT WHERE MASS CASUALTIES HAVE TAKEN PLACE; OR
- (VI) HAS RECEIVED ONLY A SINGLE DOSE TO RELIEVE PAIN FOR A SINGLE TEST OR PROCEDURE.
- (b) The program must use industry standards to allow providers or their designees direct access to data from within an electronic health record to the extent that the query relates to a current patient of the practitioner.
- (c) A practitioner or his or her designee complies with this subsection (3.6) if he or she attempts to access the program prior to prescribing the second fill for an opioid, and the program is not available or is inaccessible due to technical failure.
- (d) A violation of this subsection (3.6) does not create a private right of action or serve as the basis of a cause of action. A violation of this section does not constitute negligence per se or contributory negligence per se and does not alone establish a standard of care. Compliance with this section does not alone establish an absolute defense to any alleged breach of the standard of care.
 - (e) This subsection (3.6) is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.
- (8) REPORTS GENERATED BY THE PROGRAM AND PROVIDED TO PRESCRIBING PRACTITIONERS FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND INTERVENTION TO PREVENT AND REDUCE OCCURRENCES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE MISUSE, ABUSE, AND DIVERSION ARE:
- (a) Not public records under the "Colorado Open Records Act", part 2 of article 72 of title 24;
- (b) Not discoverable in any criminal or administrative proceeding against a prescribing practitioner; and

(c) Not admissible in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding against a prescribing practitioner.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-64-127 as follows:

- 12-64-127. Prescription of opioids limitations repeal. (1) (a) A VETERINARIAN SHALL NOT PRESCRIBE MORE THAN A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY OF AN OPIOID TO A PATIENT WHO HAS NOT HAD AN OPIOID PRESCRIPTION IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BY THAT VETERINARIAN, AND MAY EXERCISE DISCRETION TO INCLUDE A SECOND FILL FOR A SEVEN-DAY SUPPLY. THE LIMITS ON INITIAL PRESCRIBING DO NOT APPLY IF, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE VETERINARIAN, THE PATIENT:
- (I) HAS CHRONIC PAIN THAT TYPICALLY LASTS LONGER THAN NINETY DAYS OR PAST THE TIME OF NORMAL HEALING, AS DETERMINED BY THE VETERINARIAN, OR FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF CARE FROM ANOTHER VETERINARIAN WHO PRESCRIBED AN OPIOID TO THE PATIENT;
- (II) Has been diagnosed with cancer and is experiencing cancer-related pain; or
- (III) IS EXPERIENCING POST-SURGICAL PAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE, IS EXPECTED TO LAST MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS.
- (b) Prior to prescribing the second fill of any opioid prescription pursuant to this section, a veterinarian must comply with the requirements of section 12-42.5-404 (3.6). Failure to comply with section 12-42.5-404 (3.6) constitutes grounds for discipline under section 12-64-111 only if the veterinarian repeatedly fails to comply.
- (2) A veterinarian licensed pursuant to this article 64 may prescribe opioids electronically.
- (3) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CREATE A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION OR SERVE AS THE BASIS OF A CAUSE OF ACTION. A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE NEGLIGENCE PER SE OR CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE PER SE AND DOES NOT ALONE ESTABLISH A STANDARD OF CARE. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION DOES NOT ALONE ESTABLISH AN ABSOLUTE DEFENSE TO ANY ALLEGED BREACH OF THE STANDARD OF CARE.
 - (4) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 25-1-129 as follows:

25-1-129. Prescription drug monitoring program integration methods - health care provider report cards - report - repeal. (1) On or before December 1, 2019, the department shall report to the general assembly the findings from studies the department conducted pursuant to the federal grant titled the "Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention for States Cooperative Agreement" that the department received concerning:

- $(a)\ The\ Prescription\ Drug\ monitoring\ Program\ integration\ methods; and$
- (b) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER REPORT CARDS.
- (2) The department shall forward the findings from studies conducted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to the center for research into substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support strategies at the university of Colorado Health sciences center, created in section 27-80-118 (3). The center shall use the information to provide voluntary training for health care providers in targeted areas.
 - (3) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2020.

SECTION 9. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 21, 2018