

Act 284 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS OF ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY; TO AUTHORIZE USE OF PHARMACISTS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO AND ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN MEDICATIONS; TO AUTHORIZE DISPENSING OF CERTAIN MEDICATION BY PHYSICIANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

This act, sponsored by Senators Cecile Bledsoe and Lance Eads as well as Representative Justin Boyd, added language to allow pharmacists to initiate therapy and administer or dispense or both Naloxone pursuant to a statewide protocol which is also published here. This act also allows physicians to dispense Naloxone without a dispensing permit.

The statutory language includes the following:

17-92-115. Requirements for administering and dispensing under a statewide protocol.

When initiating therapy and administering or dispensing, or both, under a statewide protocol, a pharmacist shall:

- (1) Notify the primary care provider of the patient of any drug or device furnished to the patient or enter the appropriate information in a patient record system shared with the primary care provider, as permitted by the primary care provider;
- (2) Provide the patient with a written record of the drugs or devices furnished and advise the patient to consult a physician of the patient's choice, if the patient does not have a primary care provider; and
- (3)
  - (A) Make a standardized fact sheet available to the recipient of the drug or device.
  - (B) The standardized fact sheet shall include without limitation:
    - (i) The indications and contraindications for the use of the drug or device;
    - (ii) The appropriate method for the use of the drug or device;
    - (iii) The need for medical follow-up; and
    - (iv) Other appropriate information.

OTHER RELATED STATUTES

20-13-1804. Opioid antagonist -- Immunity.

(a) A healthcare professional acting in good faith may directly or by standing order prescribe and dispense an opioid antagonist to:

- (1) A person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose;
- (2) A pain management clinic;
- (3) A harm reduction organization;
- (4) An emergency medical services technician;
- (5) A first responder;
- (6) A law enforcement officer or agency; or
- (7) A family member or friend of a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

(b) A person acting in good faith who reasonably believes that another person is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose may administer an opioid antagonist that was prescribed and dispensed under section (a) of this section.

(c) The following individuals are immune from civil liability, criminal liability, or professional sanctions for administering, prescribing, or dispensing an opioid antagonist under this section:

(1) A healthcare professional who prescribes an opioid antagonist under subsection (a) of this section;

(2) A healthcare professional or pharmacist who acts in good faith and in compliance with the standard of care that dispenses an opioid antagonist under subsection (a) of this section; and

(3) A person other than a healthcare professional who administers an opioid antagonist under subsection (b) of this section.