

## CHAPTER 62

AN ACT concerning the monitoring of patients' pain in health care facilities and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.26:2H-5b Routine monitoring of pain as fifth vital sign required.

1. a. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall prescribe, by regulation, requirements to be adopted by health care facilities licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) for the routine monitoring of pain as a fifth vital sign in patients, in addition to blood pressure, pulse, respiration and temperature.

For the purpose of this subsection, the commissioner shall require health care facilities to:

- (1) routinely inquire whether a patient is in pain;
- (2) maintain policies and procedures as prescribed by the commissioner for asking patients to rate their degree of pain for a specified period of time and to record their responses; and
- (3) routinely record levels of pain intensity on patient charts.

b. The requirements to be adopted pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall take effect no later than the 180th day after the effective date of this act.

C.26:2H-5c Rules, regulations.

2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act, for which purpose the commissioner shall consult, at a minimum, with: the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the Board of Pharmacy, the New Jersey Hospital Association, the New Jersey Association of Health Care Facilities, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the New Jersey State Nurses Association, the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey and the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved July 13, 2000.