

CHAPTER 48

AN ACT concerning the ordering or prescribing of medications by physician assistants and amending P.L.1991, c.378.

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

1. Section 10 of P.L.1991, c.378 (C.45:9-27.19) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-27.19 Ordering of medication; conditions.

10. A physician assistant treating a patient in an inpatient or outpatient setting may order or prescribe medications, subject to the following conditions:

a. controlled dangerous substances may be ordered or prescribed if:

(1) a supervising physician has authorized a physician assistant to order or prescribe Schedule II, III, IV or V controlled dangerous substances in order to:

(a) continue or reissue an order or prescription for a controlled dangerous substance issued by the supervising physician;

(b) otherwise adjust the dosage of an order or prescription for a controlled dangerous substance originally ordered or prescribed by the supervising physician, provided there is prior consultation with the supervising physician;

(c) initiate an order or prescription for a controlled dangerous substance for a patient, provided there is prior consultation with the supervising physician if the order or prescription is not pursuant to subparagraph (d) of this paragraph; or

(d) initiate an order or prescription for a controlled dangerous substance as part of a treatment plan for a patient with a terminal illness, which for the purposes of this subparagraph means a medical condition that results in a patient's life expectancy being 12 months or less as determined by the supervising physician;

(2) the physician assistant has registered with and obtained authorization to order or prescribe controlled dangerous substances from the appropriate State and federal agencies; and

(3) the physician assistant complies with all requirements which the board shall establish by regulation for the administration of controlled dangerous substances pursuant to section 15 of P.L.1991, c.378 (C.45:9-27.24) and applicable requirements with respect to educational programs approved by the board pursuant to section 17 of P.L.1991, c.378 (C.45:9-27.26) and continuing professional education programs approved pursuant to section 16 of P.L.1991, c.378 (C.45:9-27.25);

b. the order or prescription is administered in accordance with protocols or specific physician direction pursuant to subsection b. of section 7 of P.L.1991, c.378 (C.45:9-27.16);

c. the prescription states whether it is written pursuant to protocol or specific physician direction; and

d. the physician assistant signs his own name, prints his name and license number and prints the supervising physician's name, and in the case of an order or prescription for a controlled dangerous substance, prints the physician assistant's Drug Enforcement Administration registration number.

2. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment

Approved March 21, 2005.