

House File 2042 - Introduced

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BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the information provided a patient prior
2 to prescribing a controlled substance for acute or chronic
3 pain.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 124.559 Provision of information —
2 prescribing of controlled substances for acute or chronic pain.

3 1. Prior to issuing an initial prescription for a schedule
4 II controlled substance or any other prescription opioid in a
5 course of treatment for acute or chronic pain, and again prior
6 to issuing the third prescription in the course of treatment,
7 a prescribing practitioner shall discuss with the patient,
8 or the patient's parent or guardian if the patient is under
9 eighteen years of age and is not an emancipated minor, the
10 risks associated with the substance being prescribed, including
11 but not limited to:

12 a. The risks of addiction and overdose associated with
13 opioid drugs and the dangers of taking opioid drugs with
14 alcohol, benzodiazepines, and other central nervous system
15 depressants.

16 b. The reasons why the prescription is necessary.

17 c. Alternative treatments that may be available.

18 d. The risks associated with the use of the substance
19 being prescribed, specifically that opioids are highly
20 addictive, even when taken as prescribed, that there is a
21 risk of developing a physical or psychological dependence on
22 the substance and that the risks of taking more opioids than
23 prescribed, or mixing sedatives, benzodiazepines or alcohol
24 with opioids, can result in fatal respiratory depression.

25 2. The prescribing practitioner shall include a note
26 in the patient's medical record that the patient or the
27 patient's parent or guardian, as applicable, has discussed
28 with the practitioner the risks of developing a physical or
29 psychological dependence on the prescribed substance and
30 alternative treatments that may be available.

31 3. This section shall not apply to a prescription for the
32 substances specified for a patient who is currently in active
33 treatment for cancer or receiving hospice or palliative care
34 through a hospice program as defined in section 135J.1, for the
35 resident of a long-term care facility, or to any substances

1 that are being prescribed for use in the treatment of substance
2 use disorder or opioid dependence.

3 4. As used in this section:

4 a. "*Long-term care facility*" means the same as defined in
5 section 231.4.

6 b. "*Prescribing practitioner*" means the same as defined in
7 section 124.550.

8 Sec. 2. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The Code editor shall
9 designate section 124.559, as enacted in this Act, as a new
10 subchapter within chapter 124.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill relates to the information to be provided by a
15 prescribing practitioner to a patient prior to the prescribing
16 of a controlled substance for acute or chronic pain. The bill
17 provides that prior to issuing an initial prescription of a
18 schedule II controlled substance or any other prescription
19 opioid in a course of treatment for acute or chronic pain, and
20 again prior to issuing the third prescription in the course of
21 treatment, a prescribing practitioner shall discuss with the
22 patient, or the patient's parent or guardian if the patient
23 is under 18 years of age and is not an emancipated minor, the
24 risks associated with the substance being prescribed. The
25 information to be discussed includes but is not limited to:
26 the risks of addiction and overdose associated with opioid
27 drugs and the dangers of taking opioid drugs with alcohol,
28 benzodiazepines, and other central nervous system depressants;
29 the reasons why the prescription is necessary; alternative
30 treatments that may be available; and the risks associated with
31 the use of the substance being prescribed. The prescribing
32 practitioner shall include a note in the patient's medical
33 record that the patient or the patient's parent or guardian,
34 as applicable, has discussed with the practitioner the risks
35 of developing a physical or psychological dependence on the

1 prescribed substance and alternative treatments that may be
2 available. The bill does not apply to a prescription for
3 the substances specified in the bill for a patient who is
4 currently in active treatment for cancer or receiving hospice
5 or palliative care through a hospice program, for the resident
6 of a long-term care facility, or to any substances that are
7 being prescribed for use in the treatment of substance use
8 disorder or opioid dependence.