

**House File 2140 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2140

BY A. MEYER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to patient education prior to the prescription  
2 of an opioid.

3 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 e. The dangers and risks of use of the substance to persons  
26 other than the patient using the substance. The prescribing  
27 practitioner shall advise the patient to keep the substance in  
28 a locked container.

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

35 3. This section shall not apply to a prescription for the

1 substances specified for a patient who is currently in active  
2 treatment for cancer or receiving hospice or palliative care  
3 through a hospice program as defined in section 135J.1, for the  
4 resident of a long-term care facility, or to any substances  
5 that are being prescribed for use in the treatment of substance  
6 use disorder or opioid dependence.

7 4. As used in this section:

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

10 b. *"Prescribing practitioner"* means the same as defined in  
11 section 124.550.

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

15 EXPLANATION

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

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

1 and risks of use of the substance by persons other than the  
2 patient. The prescribing practitioner shall include a note  
3 in the patient's medical record that the patient or the  
4 patient's parent or guardian, as applicable, has discussed  
5 with the practitioner the risks of developing a physical or  
6 psychological dependence on the prescribed substance and  
7 alternative treatments that may be available. The bill does  
8 not apply to a prescription for the substances specified in  
9 the bill for a patient who is currently in active treatment  
10 for cancer or receiving hospice or palliative care through a  
11 hospice program, for the resident of a long-term care facility,  
12 or to any substances that are being prescribed for use in the  
13 treatment of substance use disorder or opioid dependence.