

2025 -- S 0483 AS AMENDED

LC001776

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Introduced By: Senators Lauria, Valverde, Kallman, Murray, Felag, DiMario, Bissailon,  
Thompson, Urso, and Acosta  
Date Introduced: February 26, 2025  
Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1           SECTION 1. Chapter 5-19.1 of the General Laws entitled "Pharmacies" is hereby amended
- 2   by adding thereto the following section:
- 3           **5-19.1-37. Continuation of therapy prescription refill.**
- 4           (a) In the event a pharmacist receives a request for a prescription refill, and the pharmacist
- 5   is unable to readily obtain refill authorization from the prescriber, or the patient does not have a
- 6   prescriber, the pharmacist may dispense a one-time refill for continuation of therapy, up to, but no
- 7   more than one hundred (100) days of the prescribed medication provided that:
- 8           (1) The prescription is not for a drug in Schedule II-V appearing in chapter 28 of title 21
- 9   ("uniform controlled substances act");
- 10          (2) The medication is essential to the maintenance of life or to the continuation of therapy
- 11   of a chronic condition;
- 12          (3) In the pharmacist's professional judgment, the interruption of therapy might reasonably
- 13   produce undesirable health consequences or may cause physical or mental discomfort; and
- 14          (4) The dispensing pharmacist notifies the prescriber of the dispensing within seven (7)
- 15   business days. If no current prescriber exists, the pharmacist shall document such in their internal
- 16   record keeping system.
- 17          SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

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- 1           This act would authorize pharmacists to dispense a one-time refill, for up to one hundred  
2 days under the following conditions:
- 3           1. The pharmacist is unable to readily obtain a refill authorization from the prescriber, or  
4           the patient does not have a prescriber;
  - 5           2. The prescription is not for a drug in Schedule II-V
  - 6           3. Medication is essential to maintain life or for a chronic condition;
  - 7           4. The pharmacist has judged that stopping medication might produce undesirable health  
8           risks or physical or mental discomfort; and
  - 9           5. The pharmacist notifies the prescriber of the refill within seven business days, or if no  
10           current prescriber exists, the pharmacist will maintain detailed records of the  
11           transaction.
- 12           This act would take effect on July 1, 2025.

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