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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - PHARMACIES

Introduced By: Senators Valverde, Miller, DiMario, Mack, Lawson, and Goldin

Date Introduced: March 11, 2021

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 **5-19.1-34.1. Tobacco cessation therapy prescriptive authority.**

4 (a) A pharmacist who is licensed pursuant to this chapter and who meets the requirements  
5 of this section may prescribe and dispense first line tobacco cessation drug therapies to a qualified  
6 patient pursuant to rules adopted by the board of pharmacy.

7 (b) For the purposes of this section, "qualified patient" means a patient who:

8 (1) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

9 (2) Is willing to participate in a structured tobacco cessation program consisting of an initial  
10 evaluation and appropriate follow-up visits with the pharmacist prescribing tobacco cessation  
11 products;

12 (3) Has been educated on symptoms of nicotine toxicity, common and/or severe adverse  
13 effects of prescribed medication(s), and when to seek medical treatment.

14 (c) Prior to prescribing tobacco cessation products, the pharmacist must successfully  
15 complete a course on tobacco cessation therapy taught by a provider accredited by the Accreditation  
16 Council for Pharmacy Education or by a comparable provider recognized by the board of pharmacy.

17 (d) The pharmacist may refer high risk patients or patients with an identified  
18 contraindication to first line tobacco cessation drug therapies to the patient's primary care provider,  
19 as applicable, or to another provider, as appropriate.

1           (e) All pharmacists participating in prescribing therapy for tobacco cessation will follow  
2 the US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Clinical Practice  
3 Guideline: Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update (or subsequent updates as they  
4 become available), or the most updated standard of care as approved by board of pharmacy.

5           (1) Pharmacists will implement the Five A's (ask, advise, assess, assist, arrange) to help  
6 patients quit using all forms of tobacco.

7           (2) Pharmacists' services will include an educational component to include counseling on  
8 medication therapies and cessation strategies as well as referral to sources provided by the Rhode  
9 Island department of health.

10           (f) Notification of the patient screening, the prescription record and the follow-up care plan  
11 shall be provided to the patient's primary care provider, as applicable, within five (5) business days  
12 following the prescribing of a tobacco cessation product.

13           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would authorize a licensed pharmacist, who successfully completes a course on  
2 tobacco cessation therapy, to prescribe and dispense tobacco cessation drug products to a qualified  
3 patient pursuant to rules adopted by the board of pharmacy. The act would also provide that in  
4 order for a willing patient to qualify, he or she must be 18 years of age, evaluated and educated in  
5 the tobacco cessation products.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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