

Date: April 6, 2018	POLICY BRIEF PREPARED FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Staff: Alyson Williams		

HB18-1313: PHARMACISTS TO SERVE AS PRACTITIONERS

Concerning the allowance of a pharmacist to serve as a practitioner under certain circumstances.

Details

Bill Sponsors:	House – <i>Ginal (D)</i> Senate – <i>Aguilar (D) and Priola (R)</i>
Committees:	House Health, Insurance, & Environment
Bill History:	3/22/2018- Introduced in House- Assigned to Health, Insurance, & Environment
Next Action:	4/10/2018- Hearing in House Committee on Health, Insurance, & Environment

Bill Summary

This bill clarifies that pharmacists may prescribe over-the-counter medications under the Colorado Medical Assistance Act and a statewide drug therapy protocol pursuant to a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement.

Issue Summary

Senate Bill 16-135

Passed and signed by Governor Hickenlooper in 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 16-135 allowed pharmacists to enter collaborative practice agreements with providers to provide services and allowed for health plans to provide coverage for certain services provided by pharmacists that are in collaborative practice agreements.¹ The bill, SB16-135, defined collaborative practice agreements as a voluntary agreement between a licensed pharmacist and a physician or advanced practice nurse that allow a pharmacist to provide health care services to one or more patients pursuant to a specific treatment protocol delegated to a pharmacist by the physician or advanced practice nurse. Additionally, collaborative pharmacy practice agreements may include a statewide drug therapy protocol that has been developed by the State Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Public Health and Environment for public health care services.

Statewide Drug Therapy Protocols

There are two statewide protocols currently in place in Colorado.² One protocol allows pharmacists who have completed additional training to prescribe birth control (hormonal contraceptive patches and oral hormonal contraceptives) for women over the age of 18. The other current protocol is for tobacco cessation products. The pharmacist must perform a health screening and determine the need for the product then dispense the product as the protocol mandates. The pharmacist can dispense nicotine replacement therapies, bupropion³, varenicline⁴, or evidence-based combination therapies⁵.

¹ Colorado. Legis. Assemb. SB16-135. Reg. Sess. 2016. Retrieved from <http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb16-135>

² Colorado State Board of Pharmacy (2018). *Collaborative Pharmacy Practice & Statewide Protocols*. Retrieved from https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/Pharmacy_Protocols

³ This drug can treat depression and help people quit smoking. Brand names include Wellbutrin®, Zyban®, and Aplenzin®.

⁴ This drug can help people quit smoking. Brand name of this drug is Chantix®.

⁵ The combination therapies include bupropion + nicotine patch, long-term nicotine patch + other nicotine replacement products (gum or spray), or nicotine patch + nicotine inhaler.

Date: April 6, 2018	POLICY ANALYSIS HB18-1313	Page 2
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------

This Legislation

This bill updates the definition of pharmaceutical care to include the participation in a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement and the prescribing of over-the-counter medications to Colorado Medicaid recipients. It also updates the definition of a practitioner to include a pharmacist that is in a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement to administer a statewide drug therapy protocol or a pharmacist that is prescribing over-the-counter medications pursuant to the rules of the Colorado Medicaid program.

About this Analysis

This brief was prepared by Health District of Northern Larimer County staff to assist the Health District Board of Directors in determining whether to take an official stand on various health-related issues. The Health District is a special district of the northern two-thirds of Larimer County, Colorado, supported by local property tax dollars and governed by a publicly elected five-member board. The Health District provides medical, mental health, dental, preventive and health planning services to the communities it serves. For more information about this summary or the Health District, please contact Alyson Williams, Policy Coordinator, at (970) 224-5209, or e-mail at awilliams@healthdistrict.org.