

Signed by the Governor

Scope Issues

On July 9, 2019 Governor Lamont signed off on AN ACT CONCERNING A COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND PHYSICIANS

Section 1. Subdivision (5) of section 20-12a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(5) "Physician Assistant" means an individual who: (A) Functions in a **collaborative** relationship with a physician licensed pursuant to the chapter; and (B) is licensed pursuant to section 20-12b to provide patient services under the supervision, control, responsibility and direction of said physician.

This Bill was initially drafted to change the scope of Physician Assistants to set up a collaborative agreement with physicians and remove supervision. After a public hearing with much opposition to the concept of independent practice, new language was drafted. The new language states that the PA/Physician relationship is collaborative rather than dependent but does not remove the language for supervision. With the passage of this Bill, PAs will work in collaboration but provide patient care under the supervision of a licensed physician.

Continuing Medical Education Bills

SB827 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES FOR ALZHEIMER'S PREVENTION

On July 1, 2019, the Governor signed into law (effective January 1, 2020) the additional language for State Mandated CME. Now, when applying for license renewal physicians may fulfill the hour requirement for behavioral health with education on diagnosing and treating cognitive conditions, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, delirium and other mental health conditions.

SB6522 AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION IN SCREENING FOR INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER AND GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS

Signed into law on June 21, 2019, for registration periods beginning on or after October 1, 2019, Physicians must complete one contact hour of risk management training or education that may now include screening for inflammatory breast cancer and gastrointestinal cancers, including colon, gastric, pancreatic and neuroendocrine cancers and other rare gastrointestinal tumors.

Opioid Proposals

On July 9, 2019 The Governor signed into law - AN ACT ADDRESSING OPIOID USE. This Bill was filed as a Governor's Bill.

The law now includes:

1. Requiring pharmacists to offer consultations to all patients when dispersing a prescription, not just Medicaid patients as under current law.
2. Allowing pharmacists to designate a trained pharmacy technician to access the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System.
3. Requiring drug manufacturers and wholesalers to report to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) decisions to terminate or refuse an order from a pharmacy or prescribing practitioner for schedule II to V controlled substances.
4. Prohibiting life insurance and annuity policies or contracts from excluding coverage solely based on an individual having received a prescription for naloxone.
5. Requiring prescribing practitioners who prescribe an opioid drug with more than a (1) seven-day supply to include certain information on the prescription and (2) 12-week supply to establish a treatment agreement with the patient or discuss a care plan for chronic opioid drug use.
6. The President of each institution of higher education but develop and implement policy concerning availability and use of opioid antagonists. The new policy must be submitted and approved by the Department of Consumer Protection and posted to each institutions website.

For the full Public Act visit: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/ACT/pa/pdf/2019PA-00191-R00HB-07159-PA.pdf>

Bills that were not enacted in the 2019 session:

SB6943 AN ACT ALLOWING MEDICAL ASSISTANTS TO ADMINISTER VACCINES

While this Bill passed in the House, it was unfortunately not called on the Senate Calendar.

This Bill would have allowed MAs, who are under the direct supervision of a Physician or APRN who is on site, to administer vaccines and nebulizer treatments (amended language to state for those over the age of 18). The language of the Bill required MAs to have certification from one of two accrediting bodies.

SB902 AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS

On May 28th, the Senate passed an amendment to SB42 to establish a task force to study high deductible plans. The task force will reply back to the Healthcare advocate prior to next session. **While this Bill was passed in the Senate it was not taken up in the House.**

The original bill was introduced as a companion bill to SB28 as was raised as a Committee Bill. The bill required health carriers that deliver, issue, renew, amend, or continue a high deductible health plan (HDHP) on or after January 1, 2021 to:

1. Apply deductibles on a calendar year basis.
2. Pro-rate deductibles for coverage beginning after January 1,
3. If an insured was covered by a different HDHP during the calendar year, apply payments he or she can provide written evidence of making to the prior plan's deductible toward his or her current deductible.
4. The bill also requires insurers to provide deductions equal to the cost of all covered benefits, regardless of whether the healthcare provider was in- or out-of-network. The deductions must

be the lesser of the amount the individual paid for the benefits or, if the provider was out-of-network, the amount he or she would have paid if the provider were in-network.

5. The bill also prohibits an HDHP from applying different deductibles based on family size, for plans offering family coverage and an increased deductible solely because the plan provides family coverage rather than self-only coverage.

SB96 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT IN THE STATE

As drafted, the Bill would have established a working group to enhance physician recruitment in the state. The CSMS requested that they have a seat in the group. The Bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration. Staff has strongly encouraged CSMS to name an Academy member to the working group should one be created.

SB7004 AN ACT CONCERNING CONCUSSION EDUCATION FOR COACHES OF YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

The Bill requires youth coaches to complete an online concussion course. The Bill was referred to the Public Health Committee, who did not vote before the Committee deadline.

HB5898 AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING

As drafted, it would have permitted a physician to administer life-ending treatment to a patient who requests to terminate their life under certain circumstances. The Bill was not called for a vote in the Committee, therefore missing the deadline to act on the legislation.