



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Committee Bill No. 6200

LCO No. 5211

05211HB06200PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LONG-TERM ANTIBIOTICS FOR THE TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) On and after July 1, 2009,
2 a licensed physician may prescribe, administer or dispense long-term
3 antibiotic therapy for a therapeutic purpose to a patient upon making a
4 clinical diagnosis that such patient has Lyme disease or displays
5 symptoms consistent with a clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease,
6 provided such clinical diagnosis and treatment plan are documented
7 in the patient's medical record by such licensed physician.
8 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 20-8a and 20-13e of the
9 general statutes, on and after said date, the Department of Public
10 Health shall not initiate a disciplinary action against a licensed
11 physician and such physician shall not be subject to disciplinary action
12 by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board solely for prescribing,
13 administering or dispensing long-term antibiotic therapy for a
14 therapeutic purpose to a patient clinically diagnosed with Lyme
15 disease, provided such clinical diagnosis and treatment plan have been
16 documented in the patient's medical record by such licensed physician.

17 For purposes of this section, "long-term antibiotic therapy" means the
18 administration of oral, intramuscular or intravenous antibiotics, singly
19 or in combination, for periods of time in excess of four weeks.

20 (b) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Connecticut Medical
21 Examining Board from taking disciplinary action against a licensed
22 physician, pursuant to section 19a-17 of the general statutes, or a
23 consent order entered into pursuant to subsection (c) of section 4-177
24 of the general statutes. Subject to limitation set forth in subsection (a)
25 of this section, for purposes of this section, the Connecticut Medical
26 Examining Board may take disciplinary action against a licensed
27 physician for: (1) Prescribing, administering or dispensing antibiotics
28 on the basis of an incomplete clinical assessment; (2) failing to
29 adequately monitor the ongoing care of a patient receiving long-term
30 antibiotic therapy; (3) failing to maintain complete and accurate
31 ongoing records of the diagnosis and treatment of a patient receiving
32 long-term antibiotic therapy; or (4) any of the reasons set forth in
33 section 20-13c of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2009	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow a licensed physician to prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotics for a therapeutic purpose to a patient clinically diagnosed with Lyme disease.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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