



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5329

February Session, 2012

* _____HB05329GL_____031412_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF TELEPHARMACY BY HOSPITALS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 50 of public act 11-242 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Electronic technology" or "telepharmacy" means the process: (A)
5 By which each step involved in the [preparation of IV admixtures]
6 dispensing of a sterile product is verified through use of a bar code
7 tracking system and documented by means of digital photographs
8 which are electronically recorded and preserved; and (B) which is
9 monitored and verified through video and audio communication
10 between a licensed supervising [clinical] pharmacist and a pharmacy
11 technician;

12 (2) ["IV admixture" means an IV fluid to which one or more
13 additional drug products have been added] "Sterile product" means
14 any drug, as that term is defined in section 20-571 of the general
15 statutes, that is compounded, manipulated or otherwise prepared
16 under sterile conditions during the dispensing process, is not intended
17 for self-administration by a patient and is intended to be used in a
18 hospital, or its satellite, remote or affiliated office-based locations;

19 (3) "Pharmacist" means an individual who is licensed to practice
20 pharmacy under the provisions of section 20-590, 20-591, 20-592 or
21 20-593 of the general statutes, and who is thereby recognized as a
22 health care provider by the state of Connecticut; and

23 (4) "Pharmacy technician" means an individual who is registered
24 with the department and qualified in accordance with section 20-598a
25 of the general statutes.

26 (b) [The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, in consultation
27 with the Commissioner of Public Health, may establish a pilot
28 program to permit a] A hospital, licensed in accordance with the
29 provisions of chapter 368v of the general statutes, which operates a
30 hospital pharmacy, [to] may use electronic technology or telepharmacy
31 at the hospital and at the hospital's satellite or remote locations for
32 purposes of allowing a [clinical] pharmacist to supervise pharmacy
33 technicians in the [preparation of IV admixtures] dispensing of sterile
34 products. [Under the pilot program, notwithstanding]
35 Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 400j of the general statutes
36 or regulations adopted pursuant to said chapter, a [clinical] pharmacist
37 shall be permitted to supervise a pharmacy technician through use of
38 electronic technology, [. A supervising clinical] and under such
39 supervision the pharmacist shall monitor and verify the activities of a
40 pharmacy technician through audio and video communication. The
41 pharmacist-to-technician ratio pursuant to section 20-576-33 of the
42 regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall apply. In the event of a
43 malfunction of the electronic technology, no [IV admixtures] sterile
44 product prepared by a pharmacy technician during the time period of
45 the malfunction may be distributed to patients, unless [an
46 appropriately licensed individual] a licensed pharmacist is able to: (1)
47 Personally review and verify the accuracy of all processes utilized in
48 the [preparation of the IV admixture] dispensing of the sterile product;
49 or (2) upon the restoration of the electronic technology, utilize the
50 mechanisms of the electronic technology which recorded the actions of
51 the pharmacy technician to confirm that all proper steps were followed
52 in the [preparation of the IV admixture] dispensing of the sterile

