

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 12-30—sHB 5516**  
*Public Health Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADMINISTRATION IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES**

**SUMMARY:** This act allows the medical director of a “nursing home facility” to establish protocols for a prescription drug formulary system. These protocols must comply with (1) American Society of Health-System Pharmacists guidelines and (2) any applicable collaborative drug therapy management agreement.

A medical director who implements such a system may substitute a drug prescribed to a patient of the facility in accordance with the facility’s protocols. Before making any substitution, the act requires the medical director, or his or her designee, to notify the prescribing practitioner. The act prohibits the substitution if the prescribing practitioner objects or does not authorize it.

The act specifies, notwithstanding its provisions, that a facility must consider and administer prescription drugs to patients receiving benefits under a state medical assistance program in accordance with (1) the Department of Social Services’ Medicaid preferred drug lists, (2) Medicare Part D prescription drug formularies, or (3) the patient’s health insurance policy as deemed appropriate by the facility’s medical director.

The act applies to “nursing home facilities” that the law defines as nursing homes, residential care homes (RCHs), rest homes with nursing supervision, and chronic and convalescent nursing homes. RCHs do not have medical directors. Thus, it appears that the act does not apply to these facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2012

**BACKGROUND**

*Collaborative Drug Therapy Management Agreements*

The law permits physicians and pharmacists to enter collaborative agreements to manage the drug therapy of individual patients. These collaborative agreements must be governed by patient-specific written protocols established by the treating physician in consultation with the pharmacist. These agreements can authorize a pharmacist to implement, modify, or discontinue a drug therapy that the physician prescribes; order associated lab tests; and administer drugs (CGS § 20-631).

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