AN ACT ADDRESSING OPIOID USE.

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

Section 1. Section 20-614 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2019):

(a) A prescription shall be transmitted in either an oral, written or electronic manner to a pharmacy.

(b) Whenever a pharmacy, or an institutional pharmacy in a hospital dispensing a drug or device for outpatient use or dispensing a drug or device that is prescribed for an employee of the hospital or for the employee's spouse or dependent children, receives an oral or electronically-transmitted prescription, except for a controlled drug, as defined in section 21a-240, a record of such prescription shall be maintained in writing or electronically. The pharmacist or pharmacy intern shall, not later than the end of the business day when the prescription was received, record the prescription on a prescription form or in an electronic record including: (1) The name and address of the prescribing practitioner; (2) the date of the prescription; (3) the name, dosage form, strength, where applicable, and the amount of the drug prescribed; (4) the name and address of the patient or, for veterinary prescriptions, the name and address of the owner and the species of the animal; (5) the directions for use; (6) any required
cautionary statements; and (7) the number of times the prescription
may be refilled, including the use of refill terms "PRN" and "ad lib" in
lieu of a specific number of authorized refills.

(c) A written prescription shall bear: (1) The written signature of the
prescribing practitioner or shall comply with the requirements of
section 19a-509c; (2) the address of the practitioner; (3) the date of the
prescription; (4) the name, dosage form, strength, where applicable,
and amount of the drug prescribed; (5) the name and address of the
patient or, for veterinary prescriptions, the name and address of the
owner and the species of the animal; (6) the directions for use; (7) any
required cautionary statements; and (8) the number of times the
prescription may be refilled, including the use of refill terms "PRN"
and "ad lib" in lieu of a specific number of authorized refills. No
written prescription form for a schedule II substance may contain an
order for any other legend drug or device.

(d) Prior to or simultaneous with the dispensing of a drug pursuant
to subsection (b) of this section, a pharmacist or other employee of the
pharmacy shall, whenever practicable, offer for the pharmacist to
discuss the drug to be dispensed and to counsel the patient on the
usage of the drug, except when the person obtaining the prescription is
other than the person named on the prescription form or electronic
record or the pharmacist determines it is appropriate to make such
offer in writing. Any such written offer shall include an offer to
communicate with the patient either in person at the pharmacy or by
telephone.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a pharmacist
to provide counseling to a patient who refuses such counseling. The
pharmacist shall keep a record of such counseling, any refusal by or
inability of the patient to accept counseling or a refusal by the patient
to provide information regarding such counseling. Records kept
pursuant to this subsection shall be maintained for the same length of
time as prescription records are maintained pursuant to section 20-615.
[(d)] (f) (1) As used in this subsection, "electronic data intermediary" means an entity that provides the infrastructure that connects the computer systems or other electronic devices utilized by prescribing practitioners with those used by pharmacies in order to facilitate the secure transmission of electronic prescription orders, refill authorization requests, communications and other patient care information between such entities.

(2) An electronic data intermediary may transfer electronically transmitted data between a prescribing practitioner licensed and authorized to prescribe and a pharmacy of the patient's choice, licensed pursuant to this chapter or licensed under the laws of any other state or territory of the United States. Electronic data intermediaries shall not alter the transmitted data except as necessary for technical processing purposes. Electronic data intermediaries may archive copies of only that electronic data related to such transmissions necessary to provide for proper auditing and security of such transmissions. Such data shall only be maintained for the period necessary for auditing purposes. Electronic data intermediaries shall maintain patient privacy and confidentiality of all archived information as required by state and federal law.

(3) No electronic data intermediary shall operate without the approval of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. An electronic data intermediary seeking approval shall apply to the Commission of Pharmacy in the manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the commission, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish criteria for the approval of electronic data intermediaries, to ensure that (A) procedures to be used for the transmission and retention of prescription data by an intermediary, and (B) mechanisms to be used by an intermediary to safeguard the confidentiality of such data, are consistent with the provisions and purposes of this section.

Sec. 2. Section 20-612 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2019):
Subject to the provisions of subsection [(d)] (f) of section 20-614, as amended by this act, only a pharmacy shall accept a prescription for dispensing. No employee, personnel or owner of a place of business or establishment not licensed as a pharmacy may accept a prescription for transfer to or for collection for a pharmacy.

Sec. 3. Subsection (j) of section 21a-254 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(j) (1) The commissioner shall, within available appropriations, establish an electronic prescription drug monitoring program to collect, by electronic means, prescription information for schedules II, III, IV and V controlled substances that are dispensed by pharmacies, nonresident pharmacies, as defined in section 20-627, outpatient pharmacies in hospitals or institutions or by any other dispenser. The program shall be designed to provide information regarding the prescription of controlled substances in order to prevent the improper or illegal use of the controlled substances and shall not infringe on the legitimate prescribing of a controlled substance by a prescribing practitioner acting in good faith and in the course of professional practice.

(2) The commissioner may identify other products or substances to be included in the electronic prescription drug monitoring program established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) Prior to July 1, 2016, each pharmacy, nonresident pharmacy, as defined in section 20-627, outpatient pharmacy in a hospital or institution and dispenser shall report to the commissioner, at least weekly, by electronic means or, if a pharmacy or outpatient pharmacy does not maintain records electronically, in a format approved by the commissioner, the following information for all controlled substance prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacy or outpatient pharmacy: (A) Dispenser identification number; (B) the date the prescription for the controlled substance was filled; (C) the prescription number; (D)
whether the prescription for the controlled substance is new or a refill;
(E) the national drug code number for the drug dispensed; (F) the
amount of the controlled substance dispensed and the number of days'
supply of the controlled substance; (G) a patient identification number;
(H) the patient's first name, last name and street address, including
postal code; (I) the date of birth of the patient; (J) the date the
prescription for the controlled substance was issued by the prescribing
practitioner and the prescribing practitioner's Drug Enforcement
Agency's identification number; and (K) the type of payment.

(4) (A) Except as provided in this subdivision, on and after July 1,
2016, each pharmacy, nonresident pharmacy, as defined in section 20-
627, outpatient pharmacy in a hospital or institution, and dispenser
shall report to the commissioner by electronic means, in a format
approved by the commissioner, the following information for all
controlled substance prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacy or
outpatient pharmacy immediately upon, but in no event later than the
next business day after, dispensing such prescriptions: (i) Dispenser
identification number; (ii) the date the prescription for the controlled
substance was filled; (iii) the prescription number; (iv) whether the
prescription for the controlled substance is new or a refill; (v) the
national drug code number for the drug dispensed; (vi) the amount of
the controlled substance dispensed and the number of days' supply of
the controlled substance; (vii) a patient identification number; (viii) the
patient's first name, last name and street address, including postal
code; (ix) the date of birth of the patient; (x) the date the prescription
for the controlled substance was issued by the prescribing practitioner
and the prescribing practitioner's Drug Enforcement Agency's
identification number; and (xi) the type of payment.

(B) If the electronic prescription drug monitoring program is not
operational, such pharmacy or dispenser shall report the information
described in this subdivision not later than the next business day after
regaining access to such program. For purposes of this subdivision,
"business day" means any day during which the pharmacy is open to
the public.

(C) Each veterinarian, licensed pursuant to chapter 384, who dispenses a controlled substance prescription shall report to the commissioner the information described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, at least weekly, by electronic means or, if the veterinarian does not maintain records electronically, in a format approved by the commissioner.

(5) The commissioner may contract with a vendor for purposes of electronically collecting such controlled substance prescription information. The commissioner and any such vendor shall maintain the information in accordance with the provisions of chapter 400j.

(6) The commissioner and any such vendor shall not disclose controlled substance prescription information reported pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection, except as authorized pursuant to the provisions of sections 21a-240 to 21a-283, inclusive. Any person who knowingly violates any provision of this subdivision or subdivision (5) of this subsection shall be guilty of a class D felony.

(7) The commissioner shall provide, upon request, controlled substance prescription information obtained in accordance with subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection to the following: (A) The prescribing practitioner or such practitioner's authorized agent, who is treating or has treated a specific patient, provided the information is obtained for purposes related to the treatment of the patient, including the monitoring of controlled substances obtained by the patient; (B) the prescribing practitioner with whom a patient has made contact for the purpose of seeking medical treatment or such practitioner's authorized agent, provided the request is accompanied by a written consent, signed by the prospective patient, for the release of controlled substance prescription information; or (C) the pharmacist who is dispensing controlled substances for a patient, or such pharmacist's authorized pharmacy technician, provided the information is obtained for purposes related to the scope of the pharmacist's practice and
management of the patient's drug therapy, including the monitoring of
controlled substances obtained by the patient. The prescribing
practitioner, such practitioner's authorized agent, [or] the pharmacist
or such pharmacist's authorized pharmacy technician shall submit a
written and signed request to the commissioner for controlled
substance prescription information. Such prescribing practitioner, [or]
pharmacist or pharmacist's authorized pharmacy technician shall not
disclose any such request except as authorized pursuant to sections 20-
570 to 20-630, inclusive, or sections 21a-240 to 21a-283, inclusive.

(8) No person or employer shall prohibit, discourage or impede a
prescribing practitioner, [or] pharmacist or pharmacist's authorized
pharmacy technician from requesting controlled substance
prescription information pursuant to this subsection.

(9) Prior to prescribing greater than a seventy-two-hour supply of
any controlled substance to any patient, the prescribing practitioner or
such practitioner's authorized agent shall review the patient's records
in the electronic prescription drug monitoring program established
pursuant to this subsection. Whenever a prescribing practitioner
prescribes a controlled substance, other than a schedule V nonnarcotic
controlled substance, for the continuous or prolonged treatment of any
patient, such prescriber, or such prescriber's authorized agent, shall
review, not less than once every ninety days, the patient's records in
such prescription drug monitoring program. Whenever a prescribing
practitioner prescribes a schedule V nonnarcotic controlled substance,
for the continuous or prolonged treatment of any patient, such
prescribing practitioner, or such prescribing practitioner's authorized
agent, shall review, not less than annually, the patient's records in such
prescription drug monitoring program. If such electronic prescription
drug monitoring program is not operational, such prescribing
practitioner may prescribe greater than a seventy-two-hour supply of a
controlled substance to a patient during the time of such program's
inoperability, provided such prescribing practitioner or such
authorized agent reviews the records of such patient in such program.
not more than twenty-four hours after regaining access to such program.

(10) (A) A prescribing practitioner may designate an authorized agent to review the electronic prescription drug monitoring program and patient controlled substance prescription information on behalf of the prescribing practitioner. The prescribing practitioner shall ensure that any authorized agent's access to such program and patient controlled substance prescription information is limited to the purposes described in this section and occurs in a manner that protects the confidentiality of information that is accessed through such program. The prescribing practitioner and any authorized agent shall be subject to the provisions of 45 CFR 164.308, as amended from time to time, concerning administrative safeguards for the protection of electronic protected health information. A prescribing practitioner may [receive] be subject to disciplinary action for acts of the authorized agent as provided in section 21a-322.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, a prescribing practitioner who is employed by or provides professional services to a hospital shall, prior to designating an authorized agent to review the electronic prescription drug monitoring program and patient controlled substance prescription information on behalf of the prescribing practitioner, (i) submit a request to designate one or more authorized agents for such purposes and a written protocol for oversight of the authorized agent or agents to the commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, and (ii) receive the commissioner's approval to designate such authorized agent or agents and of such written protocol. Such written protocol shall designate either the hospital's medical director, a hospital department head, who is a prescribing practitioner, or another prescribing practitioner as the person responsible for ensuring that the authorized agent's or agents' access to such program and patient controlled substance prescription information is limited to the purposes described in this section and
occurs in a manner that protects the confidentiality of information that is accessed through such program. A hospital medical director, a hospital department head, who is a prescribing practitioner, or another prescribing practitioner designated as the person responsible for overseeing an authorized agent's or agents' access to such program and information in the written protocol approved by the commissioner may [receive] be subject to disciplinary action for acts of the authorized agent or agents as provided in section 21a-322. The commissioner may inspect hospital records to determine compliance with written protocols approved in accordance with this section.

(C) A pharmacist may designate a pharmacy technician to access the electronic prescription drug monitoring program and patient controlled substance prescription information on behalf of the pharmacist only for the purposes of facilitating the pharmacist's review of such patient information. The pharmacist shall ensure that any such pharmacy technician's access to such program and patient controlled substance prescription information is limited to the purposes described in this section and occurs in a manner that protects the confidentiality of information that is accessed through such program. The pharmacist and any authorized pharmacy technician shall be subject to the provisions of 45 CFR 164.308, as amended from time to time, concerning administrative safeguards for the protection of electronic protected health information. A pharmacist may be subject to disciplinary action for acts of the authorized pharmacy technician.

(D) Prior to designating a pharmacy technician to access the electronic prescription drug monitoring program and patient controlled substance prescription information on behalf of the pharmacist, the supervising pharmacist shall provide training for the authorized pharmacy technicians. Such training shall designate a pharmacist as the person responsible for ensuring that the authorized pharmacy technician's access to such program and patient controlled substance prescription information is limited to the purposes described
in this section and occurs in a manner that protects the confidentiality of information that is accessed through such program. A pharmacist designated as the person responsible for overseeing the pharmacy technician's access to such program may be subject to disciplinary action for acts of the authorized pharmacy technician. The commissioner may inspect records to document pharmacy technician training, that pharmacy technicians have access to the program and that patient controlled substance prescription information has been limited in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(11) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, concerning the reporting, evaluation, management and storage of electronic controlled substance prescription information.

(12) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (A) samples of controlled substances dispensed by a physician to a patient, or (B) any controlled substances dispensed to hospital inpatients.

(13) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any institutional pharmacy or pharmacist’s drug room operated by a facility, licensed under section 19a-495 and regulations adopted pursuant to said section 19a-495, that dispenses or administers directly to a patient an opioid agonist for treatment of a substance use disorder.

(14) The commissioner may provide controlled substance prescription information obtained in accordance with subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection to other state agencies, pursuant to an agreement between the commissioner and the head of such agency, provided the information is obtained for a study of disease prevention and control related to opioid abuse or the study of morbidity and mortality caused by overdoses of controlled substances. The provision of such information shall be in accordance with all applicable state and federal confidentiality requirements.

(15) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a prescribing practitioner or such prescribing practitioner’s authorized agent from disclosing
controlled substance prescription information submitted pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection to the Department of Social Services for the purposes of administering any of said department's medical assistance programs.

Sec. 4. Subsection (i) of section 21a-70 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2019):

(i) (1) Each registered manufacturer or wholesaler of drugs shall operate a system to identify suspicious orders of controlled substances and shall immediately inform the Director of the Drug Control Division of suspicious orders. Suspicious orders include, but are not limited to, orders of unusual size, orders deviating substantially from a normal pattern and orders of unusual frequency. Each registered manufacturer or wholesaler of drugs shall also send the Drug Control Division a copy of any suspicious activity reporting submitted to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to 21 CFR 1301.74.

(2) Each registered manufacturer or wholesaler of drugs that ceases or declines distribution of a schedule II, III, IV or V controlled substance to a pharmacy, as defined in section 20-594, or to the practitioner, as defined in section 21a-316, in the state of Connecticut shall report the name of the pharmacy or practitioner, location of the pharmacy or practitioner and the reasons for ceasing or declining distribution of such controlled substance in writing to the Director of the Drug Control Division not later than five business days after ceasing or declining distribution of such controlled substance.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2019) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no life insurance or annuity policy or contract shall be delivered, issued for delivery, renewed or continued in this state that excludes coverage solely on the basis of receipt of a prescription for naloxone, commonly referred to as an opioid antagonist, or any naloxone biosimilar or naloxone generic, nor shall any application, rider or endorsement to such policy or contract be
used in connection therewith that excludes coverage solely on the basis of receipt of such a prescription, biosimilar or generic.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2020) When a prescribing practitioner, as defined in section 20-14c of the general statutes, prescribes an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o of the general statutes, to be dispensed from a pharmacy, as licensed pursuant to section 20-594 of the general statutes, for human use, for greater than a seven-day supply based on the directions for use, the prescribing practitioner shall include on the prescription the reason for use, diagnosis or a diagnosis code, consistent with the most recent edition of the International Classification of Diseases, for the medical condition being treated for the patient who was issued the prescription. Nothing in this section shall prevent the pharmacist from filling a prescription without the reason for use, diagnosis or diagnosis code, if, in the pharmacist's professional opinion, the prescription was written in good faith and for the benefit of the patient or require the diagnosis information to be included on the label of the prescription. A pharmacist may add the reason for use, diagnosis or diagnosis code information after consultation with the prescribing practitioner.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2019) A prescribing practitioner, as defined in section 20-14c of the general statutes, who prescribes an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o of the general statutes, for the treatment of pain for a patient for a duration greater than twelve weeks shall establish a treatment agreement with the patient or discuss a care plan for the chronic use of opioids with the patient. The treatment agreement or care plan shall, at a minimum, include treatment goals, risks of using opioids, urine drug screens and expectations regarding the continuing treatment of pain with opioids, such as situations requiring discontinuation of opioid treatment. A record of the treatment agreement or care plan shall be recorded in the patient's medical record.
This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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**GL**  Joint Favorable Subst.

**PH**  Joint Favorable