

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Cathy Giessel
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Follow-up to questions left unanswered re:
CS for Senate Bill 94 (L&C) "Profession of Pharmacy"
Senate Finance Committee Hearing, Wednesday, May 3, 2023

1. Chair Olson had a question regarding Section 4 of the bill relating to the distribution of dialysis fluids, or dialysate, and whether the bill allowed shipment of at-home/peritoneal dialysis fluids and hemodialysis fluids. **Answer:** The bill only allows shipment of at-home /peritoneal dialysis fluid. Please see attached slides for more information about the dialysate section in SB 94 (language from Rep. Prax's HB 96) relating to that subject. There are approximately 150 patients in Alaska who receive at-home peritoneal dialysis treatment currently.
2. Regarding the question from Senator Merrick on the price of the epi-pens: Representative Ruffridge confirmed that epinephrine auto-injectors (epi-pens) would most often be covered by insurance. But they would not be free like Naloxone/Narcan is in some instances.
3. Number of Pharmacy Licenses by Entity

Program	License Type	Status	# of Licenses
Pharmacy	Drug Room	Active	44
Pharmacy	Out-Of-State Pharmacy	Active	674
Pharmacy	Out-Of-State Wholesale Drug Distributor	Active	842
Pharmacy	Outsourcing Facility	Active	37
Pharmacy	Pharmacist	Active	1057
Pharmacy	Pharmacist Temporary License	Active	1
Pharmacy	Pharmacy	Active	128
Pharmacy	Pharmacy Intern	Active	325
Pharmacy	Pharmacy Technician	Active	1261
Pharmacy	Remote Pharmacy	Active	2
Pharmacy	Third-Party Logistics Provider	Active	228
Pharmacy	Wholesale Drug Distributor	Active	23



ALASKA HOUSE BILL 96

"AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSING AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN
WHOLESALE DRUG DISTRIBUTORS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

TREATMENT OF END STATE RENAL DISEASE (ESRD) IN ALASKA (2020)

- ESRD Alaska Patients TOTAL: 1086
- Incenter Hemodialysis Patients: 532
- Home Dialysis Patients: 154
- Renal Transplants: 399

HOW DIALYSIS PATIENTS RECEIVE THEIR DIALYSIS PRODUCTS AT HOME

- For ESRD patients who elect to receive their dialysis in the home vs in a center 3 days a week they must receive monthly home shipments of supplies to perform the dialysis.
- The shipments include dialysis solutions made up of sugar water or icodextrin, a water-soluble starch and plastic tubing sets.
- The solutions are manufactured and packaged into color-coded at a manufacturing facility under the jurisdiction, inspection, and supervision of the FDA
- Once manufactured at the facility, dialysis solutions are not mixed or compounded prior to delivery to the home patient, nor are the boxes opened.
- Each delivery weighs between 500 and 1,000 pounds. Because of the bulk and weight, home delivery is an essential service for the home PD patient.

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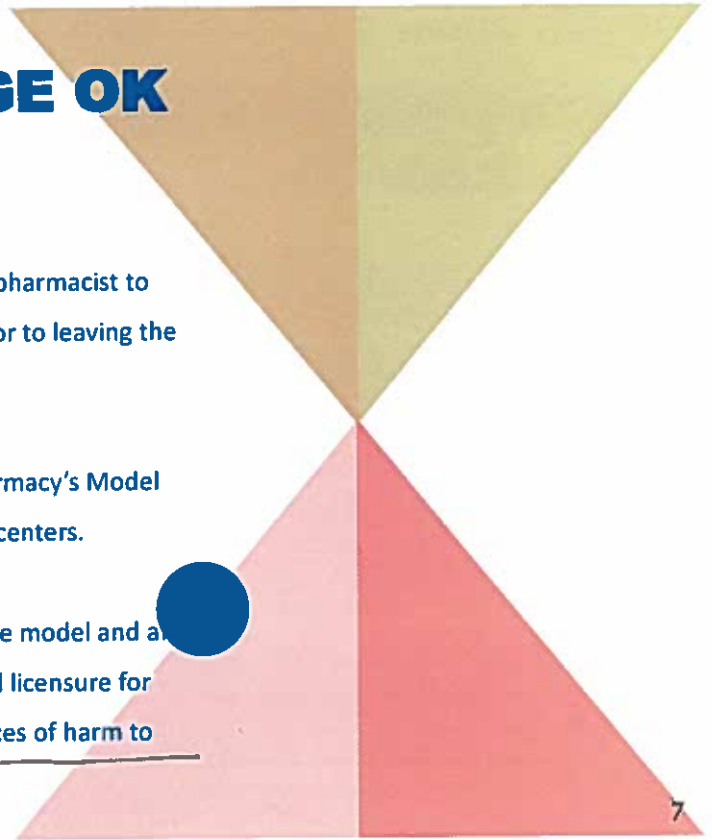
HOW DIALYSIS PATIENTS RECEIVE THEIR DIALYSIS PRODUCTS AT HOME (CON'T)

- Once each ESRD patient's physician has determined that the patient may self-administer PD therapy and they are trained appropriately, the physician determines the patient's monthly supply needs, prepares an order and transmits it directly to a Remote Prescription Order Processing Pharmacy in another state to a licensed pharmacist.
- This pharmacy obtains the physician prescription order via fax, electronic or verbal means and is entered as a standing order for the patient into a central computer system which has built-in compliance checks.
- From this prescription order, the pharmacy generates the monthly shipment order, which will be sent to a near by distribution center.
- Specially trained distribution employees organize each patient's monthly supplies into deliveries. The supplies are verified for accuracy. All supplies from the patient's orders are labeled with order information such as the names of the patient and physician, 24 hour emergency phone number, etc.
- After several compliance checks the orders are delivered directly to the patient's home.

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WHY IS THIS CHANGE OK FOR ALASKANS?

- In Alaska, we believe the requirement to require a pharmacist to review and place a second label onto the boxes prior to leaving the warehouse is onerous and unnecessary.
- This bill will mirror what the National Board of Pharmacy's Model Act outlines for these pharmacies and distribution centers.
- There are 24 states that currently operate under the model and an additional 8 states provide for some form of special licensure for the distribution of these products with zero instances of harm to any patient.



CURRENTLY, THIS IS THE STANDARD OF PRACTICE IN 32 STATES?

Currently, 24 states allow manufacturers of dialysis supplies and solutions, if registered as a wholesale drug distributor, to deliver directly to home dialysis patients. These states are:

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

An additional 8 states provide for some form of special licensure for the distribution of these products:

Washington, Oregon, Kansas, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Kentucky.

There are 2 additional states that have bills pending this session to do this as well:

Hawaii and Nevada *and Alaska!*