

SENATE, No. 4742

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT
District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to develop and distribute educational materials concerning pharmacists' authority to dispense emergency supplies of chronic maintenance drugs and requires pharmacies to display and review those materials.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the emergency dispensation of chronic
2 maintenance medications and supplementing Title 26 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The Department of Health shall develop a one-page
9 informational notice concerning the authority of pharmacists
10 licensed in this State to dispense an emergency supply of a chronic
11 maintenance drug.

12 b. The informational notice shall:

13 (1) explain the circumstances under which a pharmacist is
14 authorized by law to dispense an emergency supply of a chronic
15 maintenance drug when continuation of therapy is essential to the
16 patient's life, and the circumstances under which refusal to dispense
17 the drug would endanger the health or welfare of the patient;

18 (2) specifically identify insulin as a chronic maintenance drug
19 that may be dispensed pursuant to the emergency dispensing
20 authority when the requirements of law are satisfied;

21 (3) describe the potentially serious health consequences that may
22 result from an interruption of a chronic maintenance drug, including
23 the serious health consequences that may result from an interruption
24 in insulin therapy, which involve severe hyperglycemia, diabetic
25 ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state, hospitalization,
26 permanent injury, and death;

27 (4) encourage pharmacists to exercise their professional
28 judgment consistent with State law when determining whether an
29 emergency supply may be dispensed; and

30 (5) include any additional information the Commissioner of
31 Health deems appropriate to promote awareness of the emergency
32 dispensing authority established under State law.

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34 2. Within 90 days following the publication of the
35 informational notice by the Department of Health, every pharmacy
36 permit holder in this State shall provide a copy of the informational
37 notice to every pharmacist employed by the pharmacy and to all
38 pharmacy personnel whose duties involve prescription processing
39 or patient assistance, and display the informational notice in a
40 prominent location within the pharmacy where it is readily visible
41 to pharmacists and pharmacy personnel.

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43 3. a. The Commissioner of Health may update the
44 informational notice as necessary to reflect changes in State law,
45 regulations, or clinical guidance concerning the emergency
46 dispensing of chronic maintenance drugs.

47 b. Whenever the informational notice is revised, each pharmacy
48 shall replace the previously displayed notice with the updated

1 version within 30 days of its publication by the Department of
2 Health.

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4 4. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the New
5 Jersey State Board of Pharmacy, shall adopt rules and regulations,
6 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
7 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes
8 of this act.

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10 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill requires the Department of Health (department) to
16 develop and distribute a one-page informational notice to educate
17 pharmacists about their existing legal authority to dispense an
18 emergency supply of chronic maintenance medications, including
19 insulin.

20 The bill requires the department to prepare a one-page
21 informational notice explaining pharmacists' emergency dispensing
22 authority under State law. The notice is to specifically identify
23 insulin as a chronic maintenance drug that may be dispensed in
24 appropriate emergency circumstances and describe the potentially
25 serious consequences that may result from an interruption in insulin
26 therapy, including severe hyperglycemia, diabetic ketoacidosis,
27 hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state, hospitalization, permanent
28 injury, and death.

29 The bill further requires every pharmacy permit holder in the
30 State to provide the informational notice to each pharmacist and
31 pharmacy staff member involved in prescription processing or
32 patient assistance, and display the notice in a prominent location
33 within the pharmacy where it is readily visible to pharmacists and
34 pharmacy personnel.