
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1985 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY GUZMAN, BURGOS, HILL-EVANS, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ,
KENYATTA, MAYES, SANCHEZ, GREEN, DALEY, POWELL AND KAZEEM,
JANUARY 31, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 31, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699),
2 entitled "An act relating to the regulation of the practice
3 of pharmacy, including the sales, use and distribution of
4 drugs and devices at retail; and amending, revising,
5 consolidating and repealing certain laws relating thereto,"
6 providing for medication error prevention training.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699),
10 known as the Pharmacy Act, is amended by adding a section to
11 read:

12 Section 3.5. Medication Error Prevention Training.--(a) The
13 board shall develop a medication error prevention training
14 program for licensed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and
15 pharmacy technician trainees.

16 (b) The medication error prevention training program
17 established under subsection (a) shall:

18 (1) Be conducted by a board-approved instructor.

19 (2) Utilize a board-approved written curriculum and

1 examination.

2 (3) Cover the following topics:

3 (i) The role, responsibilities and performance of the
4 prescribing physician in the medication administration process.

5 (ii) The rights of the individual regarding accepting or
6 refusing medications.

7 (iii) Categories of medications, including effects
8 associated with each category.

9 (iv) Effective management of poisoning or medication
10 overdose.

11 (v) Storage and disposal of medications.

12 (vi) Communications with individuals or guardians, if
13 applicable, about the individual's medications.

14 (vii) The six principles of medication administration,
15 including:

16 (A) The correct medication.

17 (B) The correct dosage of the medication.

18 (C) The medication to the correct individual.

19 (D) The medication at the correct time.

20 (E) The medication to the individual by the correct method.

21 (F) The accurate documentation.

22 (4) Include a medication error prevention examination that
23 requires the demonstration of the requisite knowledge and skills
24 of medication error prevention.

25 (c) An instructor shall issue a certification for the
26 completion of the training program established under subsection
27 (a) to an individual if the individual:

28 (1) Successfully completes the medication error prevention
29 training program.

30 (2) Scores 80% or higher on the examination under subsection

1 (b) (4).

2 (3) Demonstrates knowledge of the following pertaining to
3 administering medications:

4 (i) The name of the medication.

5 (ii) The reason for the medication's use.

6 (iii) Any side effects or adverse reactions.

7 (iv) Any special instructions for the medication such as
8 giving certain fluids, checking pulse rate or monitoring blood
9 levels.

10 (d) Each pharmacist, pharmacy technician and pharmacy
11 technician trainee shall take part in the medication error
12 prevention training annually.

13 (e) A pharmacist who has been licensed in this Commonwealth
14 for less than five years must obtain a certificate of completion
15 in accordance with subsection (c) twice each year until the
16 pharmacist has been licensed in Pennsylvania for a total of five
17 years.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.