



HB 2247

Schedule II Controlled Substance Privileges

House Sponsors: Rep. Angelo Saviano - Dan Reitz - Brandon W. Phelps

Senate Sponsors: Sen. M. Maggie Crotty

SUPPORT

Illinois licensed physician assistants gaining prescriptive authority for Schedule II Controlled Substances.

There are 35 states and the District of Columbia that currently allow physician assistant Schedule II Controlled Substance privileges. **The supervising physician would have the responsibility to delegate this privilege to the PA.**

NEED

- Controlled medications are integral to the provision of medical care. Controlled substances medication uses are wide and varied with legitimate clinical usefulness and should be prescribed for the comfort and well being of patients.
- Controlled substances Schedule II are used in such specialties as oncology, chronic pain management, behavioral disorders, and surgical specialties. Morphine and Demerol are two of the most common narcotics in this category used in pain management of patients. Both the narcotics and the non-narcotics are options that should be used by the healthcare practitioner to treat their patients.

BACKGROUND

Currently, physician assistants have prescriptive privileges for all legend drugs and Schedule III-V Controlled Substance. The supervising physician has the authority to delegate this privilege.

Physician assistants receive pharmacology training from nationally accredited PA programs. In order to prescribe controlled substances, PAs must register with the Drug Enforcement Administration and obtain a mid-level practitioner controlled substances license.

DESCRIPTION OF HB 2247

- All physician assistants must have a signed written agreement with the supervising physician that authorizes the categories of care, treatment, or procedures performed by the PA.
- Physician assistants may write up to five Schedule II substances that the supervising physician prescribes. All prescriptions are limited to 30 days with physician approval required for continuation.
- The supervising physician is required to meet with the PA in person at least once a month and to be available for consults in person or by telecommunications as outlined in the supervision agreement.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

- Physician assistants are members of health care teams headed by physicians.
- There are over 140,000 practicing PAs in the United States. Currently, there are 1,957 licensed PAs in Illinois.
- PAs provide medical and surgical services that would otherwise be provided by physicians. Each PA's responsibilities depend on the type of practice, his or her experience, the working relationship with the supervising physician, the physician's or institution's decisions about what can be delegated, and state law.
- PAs provide quality patient care to over 5,871,000 patient visits in Illinois. Effective utilization of the PA skills results in appropriate and efficient care and high levels of patient satisfaction.
- The PA profession is recognized nationally as one of the top five growing professions in the United States. The PA programs across the U.S. excel in educating PA students and preparing them for their futures in the healthcare industry.

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