
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Assembly Bill 788

Assembly Amendment 1

2019 Assembly Bill 788 modifies requirements for remote dispensing of prescription drugs and devices.

CURRENT LAW

Pharmacists are generally only allowed to dispense prescriptions at licensed pharmacies, except that currently pharmacists can dispense remotely at a limited list of qualifying locations, including health care facilities, practitioners' clinics or offices, jails, and correctional facilities. Those remote dispensing sites are not required to be licensed as pharmacies but are subject to rules promulgated by the Pharmacy Examining Board (Board).

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 788

The bill deletes the current standard for remote dispensing. Under the bill, any site where a pharmacist, pharmacy student, or pharmacy technician dispenses prescriptions must be licensed as a pharmacy; however, a pharmacist is not required to be present in the pharmacy when dispensing at any locations that qualify under current law as remote dispensing sites. Whenever a pharmacist is engaged in remote dispensing at one of those sites, the pharmacist must remotely supervise the pharmaceutical services provided. The Board is authorized to promulgate rules governing pharmacies that are operated as remote dispensing sites.

The bill also specifies that a pharmacy that is operated exclusively as a remote dispensing site is not considered a community pharmacy or institutional pharmacy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

The amendment exempts any person who works in a free and charitable clinic or a narcotic treatment service for opiate addiction from pharmacy licensure requirements if his or her practice is directed, supervised, and inspected by a pharmacist. Under this exception, the individual is not required to be licensed as a pharmacist, and the location is not required to be licensed as a pharmacy.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Murphy introduced 2019 Assembly Bill 788 on January 23, 2020, and offered Assembly Amendment 1 on February 12, 2020. On February 13, 2020, the Assembly Committee on Health unanimously recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended.

AB:ksm