

3/9/2021

SB21-011: PHARMACIST PRESCRIBE DISPENSE OPIATE ANTAGONIST

Bill Summary

The bill requires a pharmacist who dispenses an opioid prescription to inform the patient of the potential dangers of an opioid and to offer to prescribe the patient an opiate antagonist in the following circumstances:

- If, in their professional judgement, the patient would benefit
- The patient has a history of opioid overdose or substance use disorder (SUD)
- At the same time, the patient is also prescribed a benzodiazepine, a sedative hypnotic drug, carisoprodol, tramadol, or gabapentin
- The prescription is a 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME)¹ or more

Health District Board Action

The Board voted to Support SB21-011. However, the Board recommends an amendment that would have pharmacists provide information to *every* patient receiving an opioid prescription that explains the issue and offers an opiate antagonist (thereby eliminating the need for the pharmacist to use their judgment or seek more information). Further, the Board recommends that a pharmacist not have liability for not directly offering an antagonist.

¹ Morphine Milligram Equivalents is a value that is assigned to opioids to represent their relative potency to provide for the ease of comparison.