

Chapter: 59

Session: 2017 Regular Session

Topic: Advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant authority

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Date: June 23, 2017

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Overview

In statutes, physicians have authority to engage in specific actions or provide specific information, as part of their practice as physicians. This act adds advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) to these statutes, allowing APRNs and PAs to engage in the following actions as part of their practice as APRNs or PAs:

- certify that an enrollee has an expected lifetime of 180 days or less and qualifies for continuity of care coverage with an out-of-network provider for the rest of the enrollee's lifetime (§ 1)
- file vital records with the state Office of Vital Records (§ 2)
- certify certain information about whether a student has tuberculosis (TB) or symptoms or is being treated for TB (§ 3)
- authorize a new pair of prescription eyeglasses using a prior prescription, if the old pair is lost (§ 4)
- complete an identification card for a person with a medical condition who needs a special diet (§ 5)
- recommend actions for do-not-resuscitate orders that apply to individuals subject to guardianship or conservatorship (§ 6)
- verify an individual's HIV status for purposes of eligibility for continuation coverage purchased by the commissioner of human services (§ 7)
- certify that an individual has a reasonable expectation to return home after a stay in a long-term care facility, for purposes of excluding the individual's homestead from the individual's assets under medical assistance (§ 8)
- verify that an individual has a medical condition and is temporarily unable to work, for purposes of retaining eligibility for medical assistance for employed persons with disabilities (§ 9)
- order skilled nurse visit services covered by MA, and review and approve a plan of care for those services (§ 10)

Section

- certify that a person living in a medical institution was not reasonably expected to be discharged and return home, related to claims against estates of persons covered by medical assistance (§ 11)
- certify that a hospitalized person is expected to remain hospitalized for three months or less and that the person will be able to return to independent living, for purposes of receiving Minnesota supplemental aid payments (§ 12)
- prescribe special diets or dietary items for persons receiving Minnesota supplemental aid; counties must pay a monthly allowance for medically prescribed diets (§ 13)
- verify that a patient covered by medical assistance cannot reasonably be expected to be discharged from a medical institution and return home, related to filing medical assistance liens (§ 14)
- determine that a child is in serious or critical condition because of a sickness or injury caused by child abuse or neglect, for purposes of determining whether a near fatality has occurred under the Maltreatment of Minors Act (§ 15)
- determine a cause of death for deaths occurring in Minnesota, filed as part of a death record (§ 16; this section directs the commissioner of health to amend an administrative rule to authorize APRNs and PAs to determine a cause of death)