

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill sets requirements for the use of automated drug distribution systems in specified health care facilities.

1 Automated drug distribution system. Adds § 151.58.

Subd. 1. Scope. States that this section only applies to the use of automated drug distribution systems located within the facilities described in subdivision 2, and that all applicable laws and rules must be followed, except as provided in this section.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines automated drug distribution system, health care facility, and managing pharmacy. Defines "health care facility" as a nursing home, housing with services establishment in which a home care provider is providing centralized storage of medications, a community behavioral health hospital or Minnesota sex offender program facility operated by DHS, or a correctional facility.

Subd. 3. Authorization. Allows a pharmacy to use an automated drug distribution system to fill prescription drug orders for patients of a health care facility. Requires the system to be located in a health care facility that is not at the same location as the managing pharmacy. Provides that the system is considered an extension of the managing pharmacy.

Subd. 4. Notification. (a) Requires a managing pharmacy to provide the board of pharmacy with specified information about the automated drug distribution system, at least 60 days prior to initial use. Requires seven days advanced notice if a system, policies, and procedures identical to those for which notification was previously provided to the board are used.

(b) Requires the managing pharmacy to notify the board whenever an automated drug distribution system is taken permanently out of service.

(c) Requires the managing pharmacy to notify the board whenever an automated drug distribution system is replaced, and to provide the board with specified information.

Subd. 5. Operation of automated drug distribution systems. (a) States that the managing pharmacy and the pharmacist in charge are responsible for the operation of an automated drug

distribution system.

(b) Specifies who may access an automated drug distribution system and related criteria.

(c) Specifies criteria by which the requirement that a pharmacist certify a prescription (§ 151.215) can be met when an automated drug distribution system is used.

(d) Allows access to drugs when a pharmacist has not reviewed and approved a prescription drug order, only when a formal and written decision to allow access is used by the pharmacy and the therapeutics committee or its equivalent.

(e) Specifies who may load an automated drug dispensing system and related supervisory and monitoring requirements.

(f) Requires the automated drug distribution system to be under the supervision of a pharmacist, and specifies requirements for supervision.