

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2004  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2660**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Leno**

February 20, 2004

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An act to amend Sections 4040, 4052, 4060, 4076, and 4111 of the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 11150 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to pharmaceuticals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2660, as amended, Leno. Prescriptions: issuance by a pharmacist.

Existing law, the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, authorizes a pharmacist in specified circumstances to write or issue a prescription. The Pharmacy Law, which provides for the licensure and regulation by the California State Board of Pharmacy of pharmacy practices, defines a prescription, in part, as being issued by designated healing arts practitioners, not including a pharmacist. The Pharmacy Law prohibits the board from issuing a pharmacy license to, or renewing a pharmacy license of, specified persons, including those who are authorized to write a prescription. A knowing violation of the Pharmacy Law is a misdemeanor offense.

This bill would revise the definition of “prescription” to include a drug order issued by a pharmacist pursuant to specified conditions. The bill would also specify that the board is not precluded from issuing or

renewing a license for a pharmacy owned or owned and operated by a pharmacist who is authorized to issue a specified drug order.

Because the bill would specify additional requirements under the Pharmacy Law, the violation of which would be a crime, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 4040 of the Business and Professions  
2 Code is amended to read:  
3 4040. (a) "Prescription" means an oral, written, or  
4 electronic transmission order that is both of the following:  
5 (1) Given individually for the person or persons for whom  
6 ordered that includes all of the following:  
7 (A) The name or names and address of the patient or patients.  
8 (B) The name and quantity of the drug or device prescribed and  
9 the directions for use.  
10 (C) The date of issue.  
11 (D) Either rubber stamped, typed, or printed by hand or typeset,  
12 the name, address, and telephone number of the prescriber, his or  
13 her license classification, and his or her federal registry number,  
14 if a controlled substance is prescribed.  
15 (E) A legible, clear notice of the condition for which the drug  
16 is being prescribed, if requested by the patient or patients.  
17 (F) If in writing, signed by the prescriber issuing the order, or  
18 the certified nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, or physician  
19 assistant who issues a drug order pursuant to Section 2746.51,  
20 2836.1, or 3502.1, respectively, or the pharmacist who issues a  
21 drug order pursuant to either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of,  
22 or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision  
23 (a) of Section 4052.



(2) Issued by a physician, dentist, optometrist, podiatrist, or veterinarian or, if a drug order is issued pursuant to Section 2746.51, 2836.1, or 3502.1, by a certified nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant licensed in this state, or pursuant to either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052 by a pharmacist licensed in this state.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a written order of the prescriber for a dangerous drug, except for any Schedule II controlled substance, that contains at least the name and signature of the prescriber, the name and address of the patient in a manner consistent with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 11164 of the Health and Safety Code, the name and quantity of the drug prescribed, directions for use, and the date of issue may be treated as a prescription by the dispensing pharmacist as long as any additional information required by subdivision (a) is readily retrievable in the pharmacy. In the event of a conflict between this subdivision and Section 11164 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 11164 of the Health and Safety Code shall prevail.

(c) “Electronic transmission prescription” includes both image and data prescriptions. “Electronic image transmission prescription” means any prescription order for which a facsimile of the order is received by a pharmacy from a licensed prescriber. “Electronic data transmission prescription” means any prescription order, other than an electronic image transmission prescription, that is electronically transmitted from a licensed prescriber to a pharmacy.

(d) The use of commonly used abbreviations shall not invalidate an otherwise valid prescription.

(e) Nothing in the amendments made to this section (formerly Section 4036) at the 1969 Regular Session of the Legislature shall be construed as expanding or limiting the right that a chiropractor, while acting within the scope of his or her license, may have to prescribe a device.

SEC. 2. Section 4052 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4052. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pharmacist may:

(1) Furnish a reasonable quantity of compounded medication to a prescriber for office use by the prescriber.

- 1 (2) Transmit a valid prescription to another pharmacist.
- 2 (3) Administer, orally or topically, drugs and biologicals
- 3 pursuant to a prescriber's order.
- 4 (4) Perform the following procedures or functions in a licensed
- 5 health care facility in accordance with policies, procedures, or
- 6 protocols developed by health professionals, including physicians,
- 7 pharmacists, and registered nurses, with the concurrence of the
- 8 facility administrator:
- 9 (A) Ordering or performing routine drug therapy-related
- 10 patient assessment procedures including temperature, pulse, and
- 11 respiration.
- 12 (B) Ordering drug therapy-related laboratory tests.
- 13 (C) Administering drugs and biologicals by injection pursuant
- 14 to a prescriber's order (the administration of immunizations under
- 15 the supervision of a prescriber may also be performed outside of
- 16 a licensed health care facility).
- 17 (D) Initiating or adjusting the drug regimen of a patient
- 18 pursuant to an order or authorization made by the patient's
- 19 prescriber and in accordance with the policies, procedures, or
- 20 protocols of the licensed health care facility.
- 21 (5) (A) Perform the following procedures or functions as part
- 22 of the care provided by a health care facility, a licensed home
- 23 health agency, a licensed clinic in which there is a physician
- 24 oversight, a provider who contracts with a licensed health care
- 25 service plan with regard to the care or services provided to the
- 26 enrollees of that health care service plan, or a physician, in
- 27 accordance, as applicable, with policies, procedures, or protocols
- 28 of that facility, the home health agency, the licensed clinic, the
- 29 health care service plan, or that physician, in accordance with
- 30 subparagraph (C):
- 31 (i) Ordering or performing routine drug therapy-related patient
- 32 assessment procedures including temperature, pulse, and
- 33 respiration.
- 34 (ii) Ordering drug therapy-related laboratory tests.
- 35 (iii) Administering drugs and biologicals by injection pursuant
- 36 to a prescriber's order (the administration of immunizations under
- 37 the supervision of a prescriber may also be performed outside of
- 38 a licensed health care facility).
- 39 (iv) Initiating or adjusting the drug regimen of a patient
- 40 pursuant to a specific written order or authorization made by the



1 ~~patient's prescriber for the individual patient~~ *individual patient's*  
2 *treating prescriber*, and in accordance with the policies,  
3 procedures, or protocols of the health care facility, home health  
4 agency, licensed clinic, health care service plan, or physician.  
5 Adjusting the drug regimen does not include substituting or  
6 selecting a different drug, except as authorized by the protocol.  
7 The pharmacist shall provide written notification to the patient's  
8 *treating* prescriber, or enter the appropriate information in an  
9 electronic patient record system shared by the prescriber, of any  
10 drug regimen initiated pursuant to this clause within 24 hours.

11 (B) A patient's *treating* prescriber may prohibit, by written  
12 instruction, any adjustment or change in the patient's drug regimen  
13 by the pharmacist.

14 (C) The policies, procedures, or protocols referred to in this  
15 paragraph shall be developed by health care professionals,  
16 including physicians, pharmacists, and registered nurses, and, at  
17 a minimum, meet all of the following requirements:

18 (i) Require that the pharmacist function as part of a  
19 multidisciplinary group that includes physicians and direct care  
20 registered nurses. The multidisciplinary group shall determine the  
21 appropriate participation of the pharmacist and the direct care  
22 registered nurse.

23 (ii) Require that the medical records of the patient be available  
24 to both the patient's *treating* prescriber and the pharmacist.

25 (iii) Require that the procedures to be performed by the  
26 pharmacist relate to a condition for which the patient has first been  
27 seen by a physician.

28 (iv) Except for procedures or functions provided by a health  
29 care facility, a licensed clinic in which there is physician oversight,  
30 or a provider who contracts with a licensed health care plan with  
31 regard to the care or services provided to the enrollees of that  
32 health care service plan, require the procedures to be performed in  
33 accordance with a written, patient-specific protocol approved by  
34 the treating or supervising physician. Any change, adjustment, or  
35 modification of an approved preexisting treatment or drug therapy  
36 shall be provided in writing to the treating or supervising physician  
37 within 24 hours.

38 (6) Manufacture, measure, fit to the patient, or sell and repair  
39 dangerous devices or furnish instructions to the patient or the  
40 patient's representative concerning the use of those devices.

(7) Provide consultation to patients and professional information, including clinical or pharmacological information, advice, or consultation to other health care professionals.

(8) (A) Furnish emergency contraception drug therapy in accordance with either of the following:

(i) Standardized procedures or protocols developed by the pharmacist and an authorized prescriber who is acting within his or her scope of practice.

(ii) Standardized procedures or protocols developed and approved by both the board and the Medical Board of California in consultation with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the California Pharmacist Association, and other appropriate entities. Both the board and the Medical Board of California shall have authority to ensure compliance with this clause, and both boards are specifically charged with the enforcement of this provision with respect to their respective licensees. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to expand the authority of a pharmacist to prescribe any prescription medication.

(B) Prior to performing a procedure authorized under this paragraph, a pharmacist shall complete a training program on emergency contraception that consists of at least one hour of approved continuing education on emergency contraception drug therapy.

(C) A pharmacist, pharmacist's employer, or pharmacist's agent may not directly charge a patient separate consultation fee for emergency contraception drug therapy services initiated pursuant to this paragraph, but may charge an administrative fee not to exceed ten dollars (\$10) above the retail cost of the drug. Upon an oral, telephonic, electronic, or written request from a patient or customer, a pharmacist or pharmacist's employee shall disclose the total retail price that a consumer would pay for emergency contraception drug therapy. As used in this subparagraph, total retail price includes providing the consumer with specific information regarding the price of the emergency contraception drugs and the price of the administrative fee charged. This limitation is not intended to interfere with other contractually agreed-upon terms between a pharmacist, a pharmacist's employer, or a pharmacist's agent, and a health care service plan or insurer. Patients who are insured or covered and receive a pharmacy benefit that covers the cost of emergency

1 contraception shall not be required to pay an administrative fee.  
2 These patients shall be required to pay copayments pursuant to the  
3 terms and conditions of their coverage. The provisions of this  
4 subparagraph shall cease to be operative for dedicated emergency  
5 contraception drugs when these drugs are reclassified as  
6 over-the-counter products by the federal Food and Drug  
7 Administration.

8 (D) A pharmacist may not require a patient to provide  
9 individually identifiable medical information that is not specified  
10 in Section 1707.1 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations  
11 before initiating emergency contraception drug therapy pursuant  
12 to this paragraph.

13 (b) (1) Prior to performing any procedure authorized by  
14 paragraph (4) of subdivision (a), a pharmacist shall have received  
15 appropriate training as prescribed in the policies and procedures  
16 of the licensed health care facility.

17 (2) Prior to performing any procedure authorized by paragraph  
18 (5) of subdivision (a), a pharmacist shall have either (A)  
19 successfully completed clinical residency training or (B)  
20 demonstrated clinical experience in direct patient care delivery.

21 (3) For each emergency contraception drug therapy initiated  
22 pursuant to paragraph (8) of subdivision (a), the pharmacist shall  
23 provide the recipient of the emergency contraception drugs with  
24 a standardized factsheet that includes, but is not limited to, the  
25 indications for use of the drug, the appropriate method for using  
26 the drug, the need for medical followup, and other appropriate  
27 information. The board shall develop this form in consultation  
28 with the State Department of Health Services, the American  
29 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the California  
30 Pharmacists Association, and other health care organizations. The  
31 provisions of this section do not preclude the use of existing  
32 publications developed by nationally recognized medical  
33 organizations.

34 (c) A pharmacist who is authorized to issue an order to initiate  
35 or adjust a controlled substance therapy pursuant to this section  
36 shall personally register with the federal Drug Enforcement  
37 Administration.

38 (d) Nothing in this section shall affect the requirements of  
39 existing law relating to maintaining the confidentiality of medical  
40 records.

(e) Nothing in this section shall affect the requirements of existing law relating to the licensing of a health care facility.

SEC. 3. Section 4060 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4060. No person shall possess any controlled substance, except that furnished to a person upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, or veterinarian, or furnished pursuant to a drug order issued by a certified nurse-midwife pursuant to Section 2746.51, a nurse practitioner pursuant to Section 2836.1, a physician assistant pursuant to Section 3502.1, or a pharmacist pursuant to either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052. This section shall not apply to the possession of any controlled substance by a manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacy, pharmacist, physician, podiatrist, dentist, optometrist, veterinarian, certified nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, when in stock in containers correctly labeled with the name and address of the supplier or producer.

Nothing in this section authorizes a certified nurse-midwife, a nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant to order his or her own stock of dangerous drugs and devices.

SEC. 4. Section 4076 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4076. (a) A pharmacist shall not dispense any prescription except in a container that meets the requirements of state and federal law and is correctly labeled with all of the following:

(1) Except where the prescriber or the certified nurse-midwife who functions pursuant to a standardized procedure or protocol described in Section 2746.51, the nurse practitioner who functions pursuant to a standardized procedure described in Section 2836.1, or protocol, the physician assistant who functions pursuant to Section 3502.1, or the pharmacist who functions pursuant to a policy, procedure, or protocol pursuant to either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052 orders otherwise, either the manufacturer's trade name of the drug or the generic name and the name of the manufacturer. Commonly used abbreviations may be used. Preparations containing two or more active ingredients may be identified by the manufacturer's trade

1 name or the commonly used name or the principal active  
2 ingredients.

3 (2) The directions for the use of the drug.

4 (3) The name of the patient or patients.

5 (4) The name of the prescriber or, if applicable, the name of the  
6 certified nurse-midwife who functions pursuant to a standardized  
7 procedure or protocol described in Section 2746.51, the nurse  
8 practitioner who functions pursuant to a standardized procedure  
9 described in Section 2836.1, or protocol, the physician assistant  
10 who functions pursuant to Section 3502.1, or the pharmacist who  
11 functions pursuant to a policy, procedure, or protocol pursuant to  
12 either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of  
13 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section  
14 4052.

15 (5) The date of issue.

16 (6) The name and address of the pharmacy, and prescription  
17 number or other means of identifying the prescription.

18 (7) The strength of the drug or drugs dispensed.

19 (8) The quantity of the drug or drugs dispensed.

20 (9) The expiration date of the effectiveness of the drug  
21 dispensed.

22 (10) The condition for which the drug was prescribed if  
23 requested by the patient and the condition is indicated on the  
24 prescription.

25 (11) (A) Commencing January 1, 2006, the physical  
26 description of the dispensed medication, including its color, shape,  
27 and any identification code that appears on the tablets or capsules,  
28 except as follows:

29 (i) Prescriptions dispensed by a veterinarian.

30 (ii) An exemption from the requirements of this paragraph  
31 shall be granted to a new drug for the first 120 days that the drug  
32 is on the market and for the 90 days during which the national  
33 reference file has no description on file.

34 (iii) Dispensed medications for which no physical description  
35 exists in any commercially available database.

36 (B) This paragraph applies to outpatient pharmacies only.

37 (C) The information required by this paragraph may be printed  
38 on an auxiliary label that is affixed to the prescription container.

(D) This paragraph shall not become operative if the board, prior to January 1, 2006, adopts regulations that mandate the same labeling requirements set forth in this paragraph.

(b) If a pharmacist dispenses a prescribed drug by means of a unit dose medication system, as defined by administrative regulation, for a patient in a skilled nursing, intermediate care, or other health care facility, the requirements of this section will be satisfied if the unit dose medication system contains the aforementioned information or the information is otherwise readily available at the time of drug administration.

(c) If a pharmacist dispenses a dangerous drug or device in a facility licensed pursuant to Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code, it is not necessary to include on individual unit dose containers for a specific patient, the name of the certified nurse-midwife who functions pursuant to a standardized procedure or protocol described in Section 2746.51, the nurse practitioner who functions pursuant to a standardized procedure described in Section 2836.1, or protocol, the physician assistant who functions pursuant to Section 3502.1, or the pharmacist who functions pursuant to a policy, procedure, or protocol pursuant to either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052.

(d) If a pharmacist dispenses a prescription drug for use in a facility licensed pursuant to Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code, it is not necessary to include the information required in paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) when the prescription drug is administered to a patient by a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000)), the Nursing Practice Act (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 2700)), or the Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 2840)), who is acting within his or her scope of practice.

SEC. 5. Section 4111 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4111. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b), (d), or (e), the board shall not issue or renew a license to conduct a pharmacy to any of the following:

(1) A person or persons authorized to prescribe or write a prescription, as specified in Section 4040, in the State of California.

(2) A person or persons with whom a person or persons specified in paragraph (1) shares a community or other financial interest in the permit sought.

(3) Any corporation that is controlled by, or in which 10 percent or more of the stock is owned by a person or persons prohibited from pharmacy ownership by paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) Subdivision (a) shall not preclude the issuance of a permit for an inpatient hospital pharmacy to the owner of the hospital in which it is located.

(c) The board may require any information the board deems is reasonably necessary for the enforcement of this section.

(d) Subdivision (a) shall not preclude the issuance of a new or renewal license for a pharmacy to be owned or owned and operated by a person licensed on or before August 1, 1981, under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 (Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code) and qualified on or before August 1, 1981, under subsection (d) of Section 1310 of Title XIII of the federal Public Health Service Act, as amended, whose ownership includes persons defined pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a).

(e) Subdivision (a) shall not preclude the issuance of a new or renewal license for a pharmacy to be owned or owned and operated by a pharmacist authorized to issue a drug order pursuant to subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052.

SEC. 6. Section 11150 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

11150. No person other than a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or veterinarian, or pharmacist acting within the scope of a project authorized under Article 1 (commencing with Section 128125) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Division 107 or within the scope of either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052 of the Business and Professions Code, a registered nurse acting within the scope of a project authorized under Article 1

1 (commencing with Section 128125) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of  
2 Division 107, a certified nurse-midwife acting within the scope of  
3 Section 2746.51 of the Business and Professions Code, a nurse  
4 practitioner acting within the scope of Section 2836.1 of the  
5 Business and Professions Code, a physician assistant acting within  
6 the scope of a project authorized under Article 1 (commencing  
7 with Section 128125) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Division 107 or  
8 Section 3502.1 of the Business and Professions Code, or an  
9 optometrist acting within the scope of Section 3041 of the  
10 Business and Professions Code, or an out-of-state prescriber  
11 acting pursuant to Section 4005 of the Business and Professions  
12 Code shall write or issue a prescription.

13 SEC. 7. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
14 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
15 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
16 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
17 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
18 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
19 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
20 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
21 Constitution.

