

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to administration of medications;  
 3           providing a short title; amending ss. 397.427 and  
 4           465.1893, F.S.; authorizing a pharmacist to administer  
 5           certain medications under certain circumstances;  
 6           providing an effective date.

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 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10           **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Connecting to  
 11 Care Act."

12           **Section 2. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 397.427,**  
 13 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

14           397.427 Medication-assisted treatment service providers;  
 15           rehabilitation program; needs assessment and provision of  
 16           services; persons authorized to issue takeout medication;  
 17           unlawful operation; penalty.—

18           (6) A physician assistant, a registered nurse, an advanced  
 19           practice registered nurse, ~~or~~ a licensed practical nurse, or a  
 20           pharmacist working for a licensed service provider may deliver  
 21           medication as prescribed by rule if:

22           (a) The service provider is authorized to provide  
 23           medication-assisted treatment;

24           (b) The medication has been administered pursuant to a  
 25           valid prescription written by the program's physician who is

26 | licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; and

27 |       (c) The medication ordered appears on a formulary or meets  
28 | federal requirements for medication-assisted treatment.

29 |       (7) Each licensed service provider that provides  
30 | medication-assisted treatment must adopt written protocols as  
31 | specified by the department and in accordance with federally  
32 | required rules, regulations, or procedures. The protocol shall  
33 | provide for the supervision of the physician assistant,  
34 | registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, or  
35 | licensed practical nurse working under the supervision of, or a  
36 | pharmacist acting pursuant to s. 465.1893 under an established  
37 | protocol with, a physician who is licensed under chapter 458 or  
38 | chapter 459. The protocol must specify how the medication will  
39 | be used in conjunction with counseling or psychosocial treatment  
40 | and that the services provided will be included on the treatment  
41 | plan. The protocol must specify the procedures by which  
42 | medication-assisted treatment may be administered by the  
43 | physician assistant, registered nurse, advanced practice  
44 | registered nurse, ~~or~~ licensed practical nurse, or pharmacist.  
45 | These protocols shall be signed by the supervising physician and  
46 | the administering physician assistant, registered nurse,  
47 | advanced practice registered nurse, ~~or~~ licensed practical nurse,  
48 | or pharmacist.

49 |       **Section 3. Section 465.1893, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
50 | **to read:**

51           465.1893 Administration of antipsychotic medication and  
 52 medication for the treatment of opiate addiction by injection.-

53           (1) (a) A pharmacist, at the direction of a physician  
 54 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, may administer a  
 55 long-acting antipsychotic medication or medication for the  
 56 treatment of opiate addiction approved by the United States Food  
 57 and Drug Administration by injection to a patient if the  
 58 pharmacist:

59           1. Is authorized by and acting within the framework of an  
 60 established protocol with the prescribing physician.

61           2. Practices at a facility that accommodates privacy for  
 62 nondeltoid injections and conforms with state rules and  
 63 regulations regarding the appropriate and safe disposal of  
 64 medication and medical waste.

65           3. Has completed the course required under subsection (2).

66           (b) A separate prescription from a physician is required  
 67 for each injection administered by a pharmacist under this  
 68 subsection.

69           (2) (a) A pharmacist seeking to administer a long-acting  
 70 antipsychotic medication or medication for the treatment of  
 71 opiate addiction by injection must complete an 8-hour continuing  
 72 education course offered by:

73           1. A statewide professional association of physicians in  
 74 this state accredited to provide educational activities  
 75 designated for the American Medical Association Physician's

76 Recognition Award (AMA PRA) Category 1 Credit or the American  
77 Osteopathic Association (AOA) Category 1-A continuing medical  
78 education (CME) credit; and

79 2. A statewide association of pharmacists.

80 (b) The course may be offered in a distance learning  
81 format and must be included in the 30 hours of continuing  
82 professional pharmaceutical education required under s.  
83 465.009(1). The course shall have a curriculum of instruction  
84 that concerns the safe and effective administration of  
85 behavioral health and antipsychotic medications or medications  
86 for the treatment of opiate addiction by injection, as  
87 applicable, including, but not limited to, potential allergic  
88 reactions to such medications.

89 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.