

Pharmacy Quality Assurance Programs

SB3336 & HB6180 – Senator Dale Righter, R-Mattoon, and Representative Mike McAuliffe, R-Chicago

Just Say No!

With **SB3336** and **HB6180**, Senator Righter and Representative McAuliffe have proposed the implementation of pharmacy quality assurance programs that could be designed to identify medication errors and prevent them from happening in other pharmacies around the State. This is a sound concept except for one significant detail. The documents collected by each pharmacy are intended to be reviewed by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for **disciplinary and punitive purposes!**

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), a nationally recognized organization devoted entirely to medication error prevention and safe medication use, has created a national voluntary error-reporting program to learn about errors and share “lessons learned” with the health care community. ISMP believes it is important to disseminate case studies of events and what has been learned about the causes and prevention of medication and vaccine errors, with identifiable details regarding individual events, where they occurred, and the identity of patients, involved staff and reporters remaining strictly confidential.¹

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists has a policy position 1505 Statutory Protection for Medication-Error Reporting that states:

- To collaborate with other healthcare providers, professions, and stakeholders to advocate and support state and federal legislative and regulatory initiatives that provide liability protection for the reporting of actual and potential medication errors by individuals and healthcare providers; further,
- To provide education on the role that patient safety organizations play in liability protection.

Rationale

Medication-error reporting at the state and federal level has been shown to improve medication-use systems and aid in conducting a root cause analysis of a medication error. Liability protection for such reporting at the federal level is necessary to achieve this analysis and improve patient safety.

Pharmacists need to be aware of legal protection for error reporting under the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. The Act set up a network of federally sanctioned Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs)² that provide protection for healthcare providers, including pharmacy personnel. A PSO is prohibited from identifying individuals or organizations that report and the information used for educational purposes must be de-identified, including contextually as necessary. The Act overrides state protections and supports the collaboration sought among providers who report and work with a PSO.³

Because this legislation is intended to be used for punitive disciplinary purposes resulting in the limited care and process improvement, IPhA and ICHP encourage you to vote NO on SB3336 and HB6180!

¹ <https://www.ismp.org/errorReporting/Default.aspx>

² <https://www.pso.ahrq.gov/faq>

³ <http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/BestPractices/MedMisPositions.aspx>



Vote No on SB3336 and HB6180!

