

**No. 173. An act relating to combating opioid abuse in Vermont.**

(S.243)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

\* \* \* Vermont Prescription Monitoring System \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4284 is amended to read:

§ 4284. PROTECTION AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

\* \* \*

(g) Following consultation with the ~~Unified Pain Management System~~  
Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council and an  
opportunity for input from stakeholders, the Department shall develop a policy  
that will enable it to use information from VPMS to determine if individual  
prescribers and dispensers are using VPMS appropriately.

(h) Following consultation with the ~~Unified Pain Management System~~  
Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council and an  
opportunity for input from stakeholders, the Department shall develop a policy  
that will enable it to evaluate the prescription of regulated drugs by prescribers.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4289 is amended to read:

§ 4289. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH CARE

PROVIDERS AND DISPENSERS

(a) Each professional licensing authority for health care providers shall  
develop evidence-based standards to guide health care providers in the

appropriate prescription of Schedules II, III, and IV controlled substances for treatment of acute pain, chronic pain, and for other medical conditions to be determined by the licensing authority. The standards developed by the licensing authorities shall be consistent with rules adopted by the Department of Health. The licensing authorities shall submit their standards to the Commissioner of Health, who shall review for consistency across health care providers and notify the applicable licensing authority of any inconsistencies identified.

(b)(1) Each health care provider who prescribes any Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances shall register with the VPMS by November 15, 2013.

(2) If the VPMS shows that a patient has filled a prescription for a controlled substance written by a health care provider who is not a registered user of VPMS, the Commissioner of Health shall notify the applicable licensing authority and the provider by mail of the provider's registration requirement pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) The Commissioner of Health shall develop additional procedures to ensure that all health care providers who prescribe controlled substances are registered in compliance with subdivision (1) of this subsection.

~~(c) Each dispenser who dispenses any Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances shall register with the VPMS.~~

~~(d) Health~~ Except in the event of electronic or technological failure, health  
care providers shall query the VPMS with respect to an individual patient in  
the following circumstances:

- (1) at least annually for patients who are receiving ongoing treatment  
with an opioid Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance;
- (2) when starting a patient on a Schedule II, III, or IV controlled  
substance for nonpalliative long-term pain therapy of 90 days or more;
- (3) the first time the provider prescribes an opioid Schedule II, III, or IV  
controlled substance written to treat chronic pain; and
- (4) prior to writing a replacement prescription for a Schedule II, III, or  
IV controlled substance pursuant to section 4290 of this title.

(d)(1) Each dispenser who dispenses any Schedule II, III, or IV controlled  
substances shall register with the VPMS.

(2) Except in the event of electronic or technological failure, dispensers  
shall query the VPMS in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner  
of Health.

(3) Pharmacies and other dispensers shall report each dispensed  
prescription for a Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance to the VPMS  
within 24 hours or one business day after dispensing.

(e) The Commissioner of Health shall, after consultation with the ~~Unified~~  
~~Pain Management System~~ Controlled Substances and Pain Management  
Advisory Council, adopt rules necessary to effect the purposes of this section.

The Commissioner and the Council shall consider additional circumstances under which health care providers should be required to query the VPMS, including whether health care providers should be required to query the VPMS prior to writing a prescription for any opioid Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance or when a patient requests renewal of a prescription for an opioid Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance written to treat acute pain, and the Commissioner may adopt rules accordingly.

~~(f) Each professional licensing authority for dispensers shall adopt standards, consistent with rules adopted by the Department of Health under this section, regarding the frequency and circumstances under which its respective licensees shall:~~

~~(1) query the VPMS; and~~

~~(2) report to the VPMS, which shall be no less than once every seven days.~~

~~(g)~~ Each professional licensing authority for health care providers and dispensers shall consider the statutory requirements, rules, and standards adopted pursuant to this section in disciplinary proceedings when determining whether a licensee has complied with the applicable standard of care.

\* \* \* Rulemaking \* \* \*

Sec. 2a. PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN;

RULEMAKING

(a) The Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council, shall adopt rules governing the prescription of opioids. The rules may include numeric and temporal limitations on the number of pills prescribed, including a maximum number of pills to be prescribed following minor medical procedures, consistent with evidence-informed best practices for effective pain management. The rules may require the contemporaneous prescription of naloxone in certain circumstances, and shall require informed consent for patients that explains the risks associated with taking opioids, including addiction, physical dependence, side effects, tolerance, overdose, and death. The rules shall also require prescribers prescribing opioids to patients to provide information concerning the safe storage and disposal of controlled substances.

(b) The Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Board of Pharmacy, retail pharmacists, and the Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council, shall adopt rules regarding the circumstances in which dispensers shall query the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System, which shall include:

(1) prior to dispensing a prescription for a Schedule II, III, or IV opioid controlled substance to a patient who is new to the pharmacy;

(2) when an individual pays cash for a prescription for a Schedule II, III, or IV opioid controlled substance when the individual has prescription drug coverage on file;

(3) when a patient requests a refill of a prescription for a Schedule II, III, or IV opioid controlled substance substantially in advance of when a refill would ordinarily be due;

(4) when the dispenser is aware that the patient is being prescribed Schedule II, III, or IV opioid controlled substances by more than one prescriber; and

(5) an exception for a hospital-based dispenser dispensing a quantity of a Schedule II, III, or IV opioid controlled substance that is sufficient to treat a patient for 48 hours or fewer.

\* \* \* Expanding Access to Substance Abuse Treatment

with Buprenorphine \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. chapter 93 is amended to read:

#### CHAPTER 93. TREATMENT OF OPIOID ADDICTION

##### § 4751. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this chapter to authorize the ~~department of health~~  
Departments of Health and of Vermont Health Access to establish a regional system of opioid addiction treatment.

§ 4752. OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENT SYSTEM

(a) ~~The department of health~~ Departments of Health and of Vermont Health Access shall establish by rule a regional system of opioid addiction treatment.

\* \* \*

(c) ~~No later than January 15 of each year from 2013 through 2016, inclusive, the commissioner shall report to the house committees on human services and on health care and the senate committee on health and welfare regarding the regional system of opioid addiction treatment, including the system's effectiveness.~~ [Repealed.]

\* \* \*

§ 4753. CARE COORDINATION

Prescribing physicians and collaborating health care and addictions professionals may coordinate care for patients receiving medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder, which may include monitoring adherence to treatment, coordinating access to recovery supports, and providing counseling, contingency management, and case management services.

Sec. 4. 8 V.S.A. § 4100k is amended to read:

§ 4100k. COVERAGE OF TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

\* \* \*

(g) In order to facilitate the use of telemedicine in treating substance use disorder, health insurers and the Department of Vermont Health Access shall ensure that both the treating clinician and the hosting facility are reimbursed

for the services rendered, unless the health care providers at both the host and service sites are employed by the same entity.

(h) As used in this subchapter:

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Expanding Role of Pharmacies and Pharmacists \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 26 V.S.A. § 2022 is amended to read:

§ 2022. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(14)(A) “Practice of pharmacy” means:

(i) the interpretation and evaluation of prescription orders;

(ii) the compounding, dispensing, and labeling of drugs and

legend devices (except labeling by a manufacturer, packer, or distributor of nonprescription drugs and commercially packaged legend drugs and legend devices);

(iii) the participation in drug selection and drug utilization

reviews;

(iv) the proper and safe storage of drugs and legend devices and

the maintenance of proper records therefor;

(v) the responsibility for advising, where necessary or where

regulated, of therapeutic values, content, hazards, and use of drugs and legend devices; ~~and~~



(vi) the providing of patient care services within the pharmacist's authorized scope of practice;

(vii) the optimizing of drug therapy through the practice of clinical pharmacy; and

(viii) the offering or performing of those acts, services, operations, or transactions necessary in the conduct, operation, management, and control of pharmacy.

(B) "Practice of clinical pharmacy" means:

(i) the health science discipline in which, in conjunction with the patient's other practitioners, a pharmacist provides patient care to optimize medication therapy and to promote disease prevention and the patient's health and wellness;

(ii) the provision of patient care services within the pharmacist's authorized scope of practice, including medication therapy management, comprehensive medication review, and postdiagnostic disease state management services; or

(iii) the practice of pharmacy by a pharmacist pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement.

(C) A rule shall not be adopted by the Board under this chapter that shall require the sale and distribution of nonprescription drugs by a licensed pharmacist or under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or otherwise interfere with the sale and distribution of such medicines.

\* \* \*

(19) “Collaborative practice agreement” means a written agreement between a pharmacist and a health care facility or prescribing practitioner that permits the pharmacist to engage in the practice of clinical pharmacy for the benefit of the facility’s or practitioner’s patients.

Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 2023 is added to read:

§ 2023. CLINICAL PHARMACY

In accordance with rules adopted by the Board, a pharmacist may engage in the practice of clinical pharmacy.

Sec. 7. 8 V.S.A. § 4089j is amended to read:

§ 4089j. RETAIL PHARMACIES; FILLING OF PRESCRIPTIONS

~~(a) A health insurer and pharmacy benefit manager doing business in Vermont shall permit a retail pharmacist licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 36 to fill prescriptions in the same manner and at the same level of reimbursement as they are filled by mail order pharmacies with respect to the quantity of drugs or days’ supply of drugs dispensed under each prescription.~~

~~(b)~~ As used in this section:

(1) “Health insurer” ~~is defined by~~ shall have the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 9402 and shall also include Medicaid and any other public health care assistance program.

(2) “Pharmacy benefit manager” means an entity that performs pharmacy benefit management. “Pharmacy benefit management” means an

arrangement for the procurement of prescription drugs at negotiated dispensing rates, the administration or management of prescription drug benefits provided by a health insurance plan for the benefit of beneficiaries, or any of the following services provided with regard to the administration of pharmacy benefits:

- (A) mail service pharmacy;
- (B) claims processing, retail network management, and payment of claims to pharmacies for prescription drugs dispensed to beneficiaries;
- (C) clinical formulary development and management services;
- (D) rebate contracting and administration;
- (E) certain patient compliance, therapeutic intervention, and generic substitution programs; and
- (F) disease management programs.

(3) "Health care provider" means a person, partnership, or corporation, other than a facility or institution, that is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide professional health care service in this State to an individual during that individual's medical care, treatment, or confinement.

(b) A health insurer and pharmacy benefit manager doing business in Vermont shall permit a retail pharmacist licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 36 to fill prescriptions in the same manner and at the same level of reimbursement as they are filled by mail order pharmacies with respect to the quantity of drugs or days' supply of drugs dispensed under each prescription.

(c) ~~This section shall apply to Medicaid and any other public health care assistance program.~~ Notwithstanding any provision of a health insurance plan to the contrary, if a health insurance plan provides for payment or reimbursement that is within the lawful scope of practice of a pharmacist, the insurer may provide payment or reimbursement for the service when the service is provided by a pharmacist.

Sec. 8. ROLE OF PHARMACIES IN PREVENTING OPIOID ABUSE;

REPORT

(a) The Department of Health, in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy, pharmacists, prescribing health care practitioners, health insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, and other interested stakeholders shall consider the role of pharmacies in preventing opioid misuse, abuse, and diversion. The Department's evaluation shall include a consideration of whether, under what circumstances, and in what amount pharmacists should be reimbursed for counting or otherwise evaluating the quantity of pills, films, patches, and solutions of opioid controlled substances prescribed by a health care provider to his or her patients.

(b) On or before January 15, 2017, the Department shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare its findings and recommendations with respect to the appropriate role of pharmacies in preventing opioid misuse, abuse, and diversion.

\* \* \* Continuing Medical Education \* \* \*

Sec. 9. CONTINUING EDUCATION

(a) All physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists, pharmacists, advanced practice registered nurses, optometrists, and naturopathic physicians with a registration number from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), who have a pending application for a DEA number, or who dispense controlled substances shall complete a total of at least two hours of continuing education for each licensing period beginning on or after July 1, 2016 on the topics of the abuse and diversion, safe use, and appropriate storage and disposal of controlled substances; the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System; risk assessment for abuse or addiction; pharmacological and nonpharmacological alternatives to opioids for managing pain; medication tapering and cessation of the use of controlled substances; and relevant State and federal laws and regulations concerning the prescription of opioid controlled substances.

(b) The Department of Health shall consult with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to develop recommendations regarding appropriate safe prescribing and disposal of controlled substances prescribed by veterinarians for animals and dispensed to their owners, as well as appropriate continuing education for veterinarians on the topics described in subsection (a) of this section. On or before January 15, 2017, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the

House Committees on Agriculture and Forest Products and on Human Services  
and the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Health and Welfare.

\* \* \* Medical Education Core Competencies \* \* \*

Sec. 10. MEDICAL EDUCATION CORE COMPETENCIES;

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIPTION  
DRUG MISUSE

The Commissioner of Health shall convene medical educators and other stakeholders to develop appropriate curricular interventions and innovations to ensure that students in undergraduate and graduate medical education and dental and pharmacy residency programs have access to certain core competencies related to safe prescribing practices and to screening, prevention, and intervention for cases of prescription drug misuse and abuse. The goal of the core competencies shall be to support future health care professionals over the course of their medical education to develop skills and a foundational knowledge in the prevention of prescription drug misuse. These competencies should be clear baseline standards for preventing prescription drug misuse, treating patients at risk for substance use disorders, and managing substance use disorders as a chronic disease, as well as developing knowledge in the areas of screening, evaluation, treatment planning, and supportive recovery.

\* \* \* Community Grant Program for Opioid Prevention \* \* \*

Sec. 11. REGIONAL PREVENTION PARTNERSHIPS

The Department of Health shall establish a community grant program for the purpose of supporting local opioid prevention strategies. This program shall support evidence-based approaches and shall be based on a comprehensive community plan, including community education and initiatives designed to increase awareness or implement local programs, or both. Partnerships involving schools, local government, and hospitals shall receive priority.

\* \* \* Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Fee \* \* \*

Sec. 12. 33 V.S.A. § 2004 is amended to read:

§ 2004. MANUFACTURER FEE

(a) Annually, each pharmaceutical manufacturer or labeler of prescription drugs that are paid for by the Department of Vermont Health Access for individuals participating in Medicaid, Dr. Dynasaur, or VPharm shall pay a fee to the Agency of Human Services. The fee shall be ~~0.5~~ 1.5 percent of the previous calendar year's prescription drug spending by the Department and shall be assessed based on manufacturer labeler codes as used in the Medicaid rebate program.

(b) Fees collected under this section shall fund collection and analysis of information on pharmaceutical marketing activities under 18 V.S.A. §§ 4632 and 4633; analysis of prescription drug data needed by the Office of the

Attorney General for enforcement activities; the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 84A; the evidence-based education program established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2; statewide unused prescription drug disposal initiatives; prevention of prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion; treatment of substance use disorder; exploration of nonpharmacological approaches to pain management; a hospital antimicrobial program for the purpose of reducing hospital-acquired infections; the purchase and distribution of naloxone to emergency medical services personnel; and any opioid-antagonist education, training, and distribution program operated by the Department of Health or its agents. The fees shall be collected in the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund established in section 2004a of this title.

(c) The Secretary of Human Services or designee shall make rules for the implementation of this section.

(d) The Department shall maintain on its website a list of the manufacturers who have failed to provide timely payment as required under this section.

Sec. 13. 33 V.S.A. § 2004a(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund is established in the State Treasury as a special fund to be a source of financing for activities relating to fund collection and analysis of information on pharmaceutical marketing activities under 18 V.S.A. §§ 4632 and 4633; for analysis of prescription drug data needed by the Office of the Attorney General for



enforcement activities; for the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 84A; for the evidence-based education program established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2; for statewide unused prescription drug disposal initiatives; for the prevention of prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion; for treatment of substance use disorder; for exploration of nonpharmacological approaches to pain management; for a hospital antimicrobial program for the purpose of reducing hospital-acquired infections; for the purchase and distribution of naloxone to emergency medical services personnel; and for the support of any opioid-antagonist education, training, and distribution program operated by the Department of Health or its agents. Monies deposited into the Fund shall be used for the purposes described in this section.

\* \* \* Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council \* \* \*

Sec. 14. 18 V.S.A. § 4255 is added to read:

§ 4255. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND PAIN MANAGEMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) There is hereby created a Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council for the purpose of advising the Commissioner of Health on matters related to the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System and to the appropriate use of controlled substances in treating acute and chronic pain and in preventing prescription drug abuse, misuse, and diversion.

(b)(1) The Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council shall consist of the following members:

(A) the Commissioner of Health or designee, who shall serve as chair;

(B) the Deputy Commissioner of Health for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs or designee;

(C) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

(D) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(E) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(F) the Vermont Attorney General or designee;

(G) the Director of the Blueprint for Health or designee;

(H) the Medical Director of the Department of Vermont Health

Access;

(I) the Chair of the Board of Medical Practice or designee, who shall be a clinician;

(J) a representative of the Vermont State Dental Society, who shall be a dentist;

(K) a representative of the Vermont Board of Pharmacy, who shall be a pharmacist;

(L) a faculty member of the academic detailing program at the University of Vermont's College of Medicine;

(M) a faculty member of the University of Vermont's College of Medicine with expertise in the treatment of addiction or chronic pain management;

(N) a representative of the Vermont Medical Society, who shall be a primary care clinician;

(O) a representative of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Vermont chapter, who shall be a primary care clinician;

(P) a representative from the Vermont Board of Osteopathic Physicians, who shall be an osteopath;

(Q) a representative from the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians, who shall be a naturopathic physician;

(R) a representative of the Federally Qualified Health Centers, who shall be a primary care clinician selected by the Bi-State Primary Care Association;

(S) a representative of the Vermont Ethics Network;

(T) a representative of the Hospice and Palliative Care Council of Vermont;

(U) a representative of the Office of the Health Care Advocate;

(V) a representative of health insurers, to be selected by the three health insurers with the most covered lives in Vermont;

(W) a clinician who works in the emergency department of a hospital, to be selected by the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems in consultation with any nonmember hospitals;

(X) a clinician who specializes in occupational medicine, to be selected by the Commissioner of Health;

(Y) a clinician who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation, to be selected by the Commissioner of Health;

(Z) a member of the Vermont Board of Nursing Subcommittee on APRN Practice, who shall be an advanced practice registered nurse who has clinical experience that includes working with patients who are experiencing acute or chronic pain;

(AA) a representative from the Vermont Assembly of Home Health and Hospice Agencies;

(BB) a psychologist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 55 who has experience in treating chronic pain, to be selected by the Board of Psychological Examiners;

(CC) a drug and alcohol abuse counselor licensed pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 8, to be selected by the Deputy Commissioner of Health for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs;

(DD) a retail pharmacist, to be selected by the Vermont Pharmacists Association;

(EE) an advanced practice registered nurse full-time faculty member from the University of Vermont's College of Nursing and Health Sciences with a current clinical practice that includes caring for patients with acute or chronic pain;

(FF) a licensed acupuncturist with experience in pain management, to be selected by the Vermont Acupuncture Association;

(GG) a representative of the Vermont Substance Abuse Treatment Providers Association;

(HH) a consumer representative who is either a consumer in recovery from prescription drug abuse or a consumer receiving medical treatment for chronic noncancer-related pain; and

(II) a consumer representative who is or has been an injured worker and has been prescribed opioids.

(2) In addition to the members appointed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b), the Council shall consult with the Opioid Prescribing Task Force, specialists, and other individuals as appropriate to the topic under consideration.

(c) Advisory Council members who are not employed by the State or whose participation is not supported through their employment or association shall be entitled to a per diem and expenses as provided by 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

(d)(1) The Advisory Council shall provide advice to the Commissioner concerning rules for the appropriate use of controlled substances in treating

acute pain and chronic noncancer pain; the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System; and the prevention of prescription drug abuse, misuse, and diversion.

(2) The Advisory Council shall evaluate the use of nonpharmacological approaches to treatment for pain, including the appropriateness, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of using complementary and alternative therapies such as chiropractic, acupuncture, and massage.

(e) The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 regarding the appropriate use of controlled substances in treating acute pain and chronic noncancer pain; the appropriate use of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System; and the prevention of prescription drug abuse, misuse, and diversion, after seeking the advice of the Council.

\* \* \* Unused Prescription Drug Disposal Program \* \* \*

Sec. 14a. 18 V.S.A. § 4224 is added to read:

§ 4224. UNUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM

The Department of Health shall establish and maintain a statewide unused prescription drug disposal program to provide for the safe disposal of Vermont residents' unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The program may include establishing secure collection and disposal sites and providing medication envelopes for sending unused prescription drugs to an authorized collection facility for destruction.

\* \* \* Acupuncture \* \* \*

Sec. 15. INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACUPUNCTURE; REPORT

Each nonprofit hospital and medical service corporation licensed to do business in this State pursuant to both 8 V.S.A. chapters 123 and 125 and providing coverage for pain management shall evaluate the evidence supporting the use of acupuncture as a modality for treating and managing pain in its enrollees, including the experience of other states in which it is covered by health insurance plans. On or before January 15, 2017, each such corporation shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare its assessment of whether its insurance plans should provide coverage for acupuncture when used to treat or manage pain.

Sec. 15a. ACUPUNCTURE; MEDICAID PILOT PROJECT

(a) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop a pilot project to offer acupuncture services to Medicaid-eligible Vermonters with a diagnosis of chronic pain. The project shall offer acupuncture services for a defined period of time as an alternative or adjunctive to prescribing opioids and shall assess the benefits of acupuncture treatment in returning individuals to social, occupational, and psychological function. The project shall include:

(1) an advisory group of pain management specialists and acupuncture providers familiar with the current science on evidence-based use of acupuncture to treat or manage chronic pain;

(2) specific patient eligibility requirements regarding the specific cause or site of chronic pain for which the evidence indicates acupuncture may be an appropriate treatment; and

(3) input and involvement from the Department of Health to promote consistency with other State policy initiatives designed to reduce the reliance on opioid medications in treating or managing chronic pain.

(b) On or before January 15, 2017, the Department of Vermont Health Access, in consultation with the Department of Health, shall provide a progress report on the pilot project to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare that includes an implementation plan for the pilot project described in this section. In addition, the Departments shall consider any appropriate role for acupuncture in treating substance use disorder, including consulting with health care providers using acupuncture in this manner, and shall make recommendations in the progress report regarding the use of acupuncture in treating Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorder.

\* \* \* Health Department Position \* \* \*

#### Sec. 16. HEALTH DEPARTMENT; POSITION

One new permanent classified position—a substance abuse program manager—is authorized in the Department of Health in order to coordinate a secure prescription drug collection and disposal program as part of the unused prescription drug disposal program established pursuant to Sec. 14a of this act.



The position shall be transferred and converted from an existing vacant position in the Executive Branch of State government.

\* \* \* Appropriations \* \* \*

Sec. 17. APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2017 for the purpose of funding the evidence-based education program established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 2, including evidence-based information about safe prescribing of controlled substances and alternatives to opioids for treating pain.

(b) The sum of \$625,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2017 for the purpose of funding statewide unused prescription drug disposal initiatives, of which \$100,000.00 shall be used for a secure prescription drug collection and disposal program and the program manager established by Sec. 16 of this act, \$50,000.00 shall be used for unused medication envelopes for a mail-back program, \$225,000.00 shall be used for a public information campaign on the safe disposal of controlled substances, and \$250,000.00 shall be used for a public information campaign on the responsible use of prescription drugs.

(c) The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year

2017 for the purpose of purchasing and distributing opioid antagonist rescue kits.

(d) The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2017 for the purpose of establishing a hospital antimicrobial program to reduce hospital-acquired infections.

(e) The sum of \$32,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2017 for the purpose of purchasing and distributing naloxone to emergency medical services personnel throughout the State.

(f) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund to the Department of Vermont Health Access in fiscal year 2017 for the purpose of exploring nonpharmacological approaches to pain management by implementing the pilot project established in Sec. 15a of this act to evaluate the use of acupuncture in treating chronic pain in Medicaid beneficiaries.

#### Sec. 18. REPEAL

2013 Acts and Resolves No. 75, Sec. 14, as amended by 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 199, Sec. 60 (Unified Pain Management System Advisory Council), is repealed.

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 1–2 (VPMS), 3 (opioid addiction treatment care coordination), 4 (telemedicine), 13 (use of Evidence-Based Education and Advertising Fund), 14 (Controlled Substances and Pain Management Advisory Council), 16 (Health Department position), 17 (appropriations), and 18 (repeal) shall take effect on July 1, 2016, except that in Sec. 2, 18 V.S.A. § 4289(d)(3) (dispenser reporting to VPMS) shall take effect 30 days following notice and a determination by the Commissioner of Health that daily reporting is practicable.

(b) Secs. 2a (rulemaking), 5–7 (clinical pharmacy), 8 (role of pharmacies; report), 10 (medical education), 11 (regional partnerships), 14a (unused drug disposal program), 15–15a (acupuncture studies), and this section shall take effect on passage.

(c) Sec. 9 (continuing education) shall take effect on July 1, 2016 and shall apply beginning with licensing periods beginning on or after that date.

(d) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 12 (manufacturer fee) shall take effect on passage and shall apply retroactive to January 1, 2016.

Date Governor signed bill: June 8, 2016