



30 practitioners who designate an employee to access the controlled substance database, in order  
31 to recover the cost of determining whether the employee is a security risk;

32       ▶ provides that a person who is a licensed practitioner or a mental health therapist  
33 shall be denied access to the database when the person is no longer licensed;

34       ▶ provides that a person who is a relative of a deceased individual is not entitled to  
35 access information from the database relating to the deceased individual based on  
36 the fact or claim that the person is related to, or subrogated to the rights of, the  
37 deceased individual; and

38       ▶ makes technical changes.

39 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

40       None

41 **Other Special Clauses:**

42       None

43 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

44 AMENDS:

45       **58-37-7.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 313



47 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

48       Section 1. Section **58-37-7.5** is amended to read:

49       **58-37-7.5. Controlled substance database -- Pharmacy reporting requirements --**  
50 **Access -- Penalties.**

51       (1) As used in this section:

52       (a) "Board" means the Utah State Board of Pharmacy created in Section 58-17b-201.

53       (b) "Database" means the controlled substance database created in this section.

54       (c) "Database manager" means the person responsible for operating the database, or  
55 the person's designee.

56       (d) "Division" means the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing created  
57 in Section 58-1-103.

- 58 (e) "Health care facility" is as defined in Section 26-21-2.
- 59 (f) "Mental health therapist" is as defined in Section 58-60-102.
- 60 [~~(f)~~] (g) "Pharmacy" or "pharmaceutical facility" is as defined in Section 58-17b-102.
- 61 (h) "Prospective patient" means a person who:
- 62 (i) is seeking medical advice, medical treatment, or medical services from a
- 63 practitioner; and
- 64 (ii) the practitioner described in Subsection (1)(h)(i) is considering accepting as a
- 65 patient.
- 66 (i) "Substance abuse treatment program" is as defined in Section 62A-2-101.
- 67 (2) (a) There is created within the division a controlled substance database.
- 68 (b) The division shall administer and direct the functioning of the database in
- 69 accordance with this section. The division may under state procurement laws contract with
- 70 another state agency or private entity to establish, operate, or maintain the database. The
- 71 division in collaboration with the board shall determine whether to operate the database within
- 72 the division or contract with another entity to operate the database, based on an analysis of
- 73 costs and benefits.
- 74 (c) The purpose of the database is to contain data as described in this section
- 75 regarding every prescription for a controlled substance dispensed in the state to any person
- 76 other than an inpatient in a licensed health care facility.
- 77 (d) Data required by this section shall be submitted in compliance with this section to
- 78 the manager of the database by the pharmacist in charge of the drug outlet where the
- 79 controlled substance is dispensed.
- 80 (3) The board shall advise the division regarding:
- 81 (a) establishing, maintaining, and operating the database;
- 82 (b) access to the database and how access is obtained; and
- 83 (c) control of information contained in the database.
- 84 (4) The pharmacist in charge shall, regarding each controlled substance dispensed by a
- 85 pharmacist under the pharmacist's supervision other than those dispensed for an inpatient at a

86 health care facility, submit to the manager of the database the following information, by a  
87 procedure and in a format established by the division:

- 88 (a) name of the prescribing practitioner;
- 89 (b) date of the prescription;
- 90 (c) date the prescription was filled;
- 91 (d) name of the person for whom the prescription was written;
- 92 (e) positive identification of the person receiving the prescription, including the type  
93 of identification and any identifying numbers on the identification;
- 94 (f) name of the controlled substance;
- 95 (g) quantity of controlled substance prescribed;
- 96 (h) strength of controlled substance;
- 97 (i) quantity of controlled substance dispensed;
- 98 (j) dosage quantity and frequency as prescribed;
- 99 (k) name of drug outlet dispensing the controlled substance;
- 100 (l) name of pharmacist dispensing the controlled substance; and
- 101 (m) other relevant information as required by division rule.

102 (5) The division shall maintain the database in an electronic file or by other means  
103 established by the division to facilitate use of the database for identification of:

- 104 (a) prescribing practices and patterns of prescribing and dispensing controlled  
105 substances;
- 106 (b) practitioners prescribing controlled substances in an unprofessional or unlawful  
107 manner;
- 108 (c) individuals receiving prescriptions for controlled substances from licensed  
109 practitioners, and who subsequently obtain dispensed controlled substances from a drug outlet  
110 in quantities or with a frequency inconsistent with generally recognized standards of dosage  
111 for that controlled substance; and
- 112 (d) individuals presenting forged or otherwise false or altered prescriptions for  
113 controlled substances to a pharmacy.

114 (6) (a) The division shall by rule establish the electronic format in which the  
115 information required under this section shall be submitted to the administrator of the database.

116 (b) The division shall ensure the database system records and maintains for reference:

117 (i) identification of each person who requests or receives information from the  
118 database;

119 (ii) the information provided to each person; and

120 (iii) the date and time the information is requested or provided.

121 (7) The division shall make rules to:

122 (a) effectively enforce the limitations on access to the database as described in  
123 Subsection (8); and

124 (b) establish standards and procedures to ensure accurate identification of individuals  
125 requesting information or receiving information without request from the database.

126 (8) The manager of the database shall make information in the database available only  
127 to the following persons, ~~[and]~~ in accordance with the ~~[limitations stated]~~ requirements of this  
128 section and division rules:

129 (a) personnel of the division specifically assigned to conduct investigations related to  
130 controlled substances laws under the jurisdiction of the division;

131 (b) authorized division personnel engaged in analysis of controlled substance  
132 prescription information as a part of the assigned duties and responsibilities of their  
133 employment;

134 (c) employees of the Department of Health whom the director of the Department of  
135 Health assigns to conduct scientific studies regarding the use or abuse of controlled  
136 substances, provided that the identity of the individuals and pharmacies in the database are  
137 confidential and are not disclosed in any manner to any individual who is not directly involved  
138 in the scientific studies;

139 (d) a licensed practitioner having authority to prescribe controlled substances, to the  
140 extent the information:

141 (i) (A) ~~[the information]~~ relates specifically to a current or prospective patient of the

142 practitioner~~[, to whom the practitioner is]~~; and  
143 (B) is sought by the practitioner for the purpose of:  
144 (I) prescribing or considering prescribing any controlled substance[;] to the current or  
145 prospective patient;  
146 (II) diagnosing the current or prospective patient;  
147 (III) providing medical treatment or medical advice to the current or prospective  
148 patient; or  
149 (IV) determining whether the current or prospective patient:  
150 (Aa) is attempting to fraudulently obtain a controlled substance from the practitioner;  
151 or  
152 (Bb) has fraudulently obtained, or attempted to fraudulently obtain, a controlled  
153 substance from the practitioner;  
154 (ii) (A) relates specifically to a former patient of the practitioner; and  
155 (B) is sought by the practitioner for the purpose of determining whether the former  
156 patient has fraudulently obtained, or has attempted to fraudulently obtain, a controlled  
157 substance from the practitioner;  
158 ~~[(ii) the information]~~ (iii) relates specifically to an individual who has access to the  
159 practitioner's Drug Enforcement Administration number, and the practitioner suspects that the  
160 individual may have used the practitioner's Drug Enforcement Administration identification  
161 number to fraudulently acquire or prescribe a controlled ~~[substances; or]~~ substance;  
162 ~~[(iii) the information]~~ (iv) relates to the practitioner's own prescribing practices, except  
163 when specifically prohibited by the division by administrative rule;  
164 (v) relates to the use of the controlled substance database by an employee of the  
165 practitioner, described in Subsection (8)(e); or  
166 (vi) relates to any use of the practitioner's Drug Enforcement Administration  
167 identification number to obtain, attempt to obtain, prescribe, or attempt to prescribe, a  
168 controlled substance;  
169 (e) in accordance with Subsection (17), an employee of a practitioner described in

170 Subsection (8)(d), for a purpose described in Subsection (8)(d)(i) or (ii), if:

171 (i) the employee is designated by the practitioner as a person authorized to access the  
172 information on behalf of the practitioner;

173 (ii) the practitioner provides written notice to the division of the identity of the  
174 employee; and

175 (iii) the division:

176 (A) grants the employee access to the database; and

177 (B) provides the employee with a password that is unique to that employee to access  
178 the database in order to permit the division to comply with the requirements of Subsection  
179 (6)(b) with respect to the employee;

180 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) a licensed pharmacist having authority to dispense controlled substances to  
181 the extent the information ~~[relates specifically to a current patient to whom that pharmacist is]~~  
182 is sought for the purpose of:

183 (i) dispensing or considering dispensing any controlled substance; or

184 (ii) determining whether a person:

185 (A) is attempting to fraudulently obtain a controlled substance from the pharmacist; or

186 (B) has fraudulently obtained, or attempted to fraudulently obtain, a controlled  
187 substance from the pharmacist;

188 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities, and state and local  
189 prosecutors, engaged as a specified duty of their employment in enforcing laws:

190 (i) regulating controlled substances; or

191 (ii) investigating insurance fraud, Medicaid fraud, or Medicare fraud; ~~[and]~~

192 (h) a mental health therapist, if:

193 (i) the information relates to a patient who is:

194 (A) enrolled in a licensed substance abuse treatment program; and

195 (B) receiving treatment from, or under the direction of, the mental health therapist as  
196 part of the patient's participation in the licensed substance abuse treatment program described  
197 in Subsection (8)(h)(i)(A);

198            (ii) the information is sought for the purpose of determining whether the patient is  
199 using a controlled substance while the patient is enrolled in the licensed substance abuse  
200 treatment program described in Subsection (8)(h)(i)(A); and

201            (iii) the licensed substance abuse treatment program described in Subsection  
202 (8)(h)(i)(A) is associated with a practitioner who:

203            (A) is a physician, a physician assistant, an advance practice registered nurse, or a  
204 pharmacist; and

205            (B) is available to consult with the mental health therapist regarding the information  
206 obtained by the mental health therapist, under this Subsection (8)(h), from the database; and

207            [~~g~~] (i) an individual who is the recipient of a controlled substance prescription  
208 entered into the database, upon providing evidence satisfactory to the database manager that  
209 the individual requesting the information is in fact the person about whom the data entry was  
210 made.

211            (9) Any person who knowingly and intentionally releases any information in the  
212 database in violation of the limitations under Subsection (8) is guilty of a third degree felony.

213            (10) (a) Any person who obtains or attempts to obtain information from the database  
214 by misrepresentation or fraud is guilty of a third degree felony.

215            (b) Any person who obtains or attempts to obtain information from the database for a  
216 purpose other than a purpose authorized by this section or by rule is guilty of a third degree  
217 felony.

218            (11) (a) [~~A~~] Except as provided in Subsection (11)(d), a person may not knowingly  
219 and intentionally use, release, publish, or otherwise make available to any other person or  
220 entity any information obtained from the database for any purpose other than those specified  
221 in Subsection (8). Each separate violation of this Subsection (11) is a third degree felony and  
222 is also subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

223            (b) The procedure for determining a civil violation of this Subsection (11) shall be in  
224 accordance with Section 58-1-108, regarding adjudicative proceedings within the division.

225            (c) Civil penalties assessed under this Subsection (11) shall be deposited in the



226 General Fund as a dedicated credit to be used by the division under Subsection 58-37-7.7(1).

227 (d) Nothing in this Subsection (11) prohibits a person who obtains information from  
228 the database under Subsection (8)(d) or (e) from:

229 (i) including the information in the person's medical chart or file for access by a  
230 person authorized to review the medical chart or file; or

231 (ii) providing the information to a person in accordance with the requirements of the  
232 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

233 (12) (a) The failure of a pharmacist in charge to submit information to the database as  
234 required under this section after the division has submitted a specific written request for the  
235 information or when the division determines the individual has a demonstrable pattern of  
236 failing to submit the information as required is grounds for the division to take the following  
237 actions in accordance with Section 58-1-401:

238 (i) refuse to issue a license to the individual;

239 (ii) refuse to renew the individual's license;

240 (iii) revoke, suspend, restrict, or place on probation the license;

241 (iv) issue a public or private reprimand to the individual;

242 (v) issue a cease and desist order; and

243 (vi) impose a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each dispensed prescription  
244 regarding which the required information is not submitted.

245 (b) Civil penalties assessed under Subsection (12)(a)(vi) shall be deposited in the  
246 General Fund as a dedicated credit to be used by the division under Subsection 58-37-7.7(1).

247 (c) The procedure for determining a civil violation of this Subsection (12) shall be in  
248 accordance with Section 58-1-108, regarding adjudicative proceedings within the division.

249 (13) An individual who has submitted information to the database in accordance with  
250 this section may not be held civilly liable for having submitted the information.

251 (14) All department and the division costs necessary to establish and operate the  
252 database shall be funded by appropriations from:

253 (a) the Commerce Service Fund; and

254 (b) the General Fund.

255 (15) All costs associated with recording and submitting data as required in this section  
256 shall be assumed by the submitting pharmacy.

257 (16) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (16)(b), data provided to, maintained in, or  
258 accessed from the database that may be identified to, or with, a particular person is not subject  
259 to discovery, subpoena, or similar compulsory process in any civil, judicial, administrative, or  
260 legislative proceeding, nor shall any individual or organization with lawful access to the data  
261 be compelled to testify with regard to the data.

262 (b) The restrictions in Subsection (16)(a) do not apply to:

263 (i) a criminal proceeding; or

264 (ii) a civil, judicial, or administrative action brought to enforce the provisions of this  
265 section, Section 58-37-7.7, or Section 58-37-7.8.

266 (17) (a) A practitioner described in Subsection (8)(d) may designate up to three  
267 employees to access information from the database under Subsection (8)(e).

268 (b) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
269 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to establish background check procedures to determine  
270 whether an employee designated under Subsection (8)(e)(i) should be granted access to the  
271 database.

272 (c) The division shall grant an employee designated under Subsection (8)(e)(i) access  
273 to the database, unless the division determines, based on a background check, that the  
274 employee poses a security risk to the information contained in the database.

275 (d) The division may impose a fee, in accordance with Section 63J-1-303, on a  
276 practitioner who designates an employee under Subsection (8)(e)(i), to pay for the costs  
277 incurred by the division to conduct the background check and make the determination  
278 described in Subsection (17)(c).

279 (18) (a) A person who is granted access to the database based on the fact that the  
280 person is a licensed practitioner or a mental health therapist shall be denied access to the  
281 database when the person is no longer licensed.

282           (b) A person who is granted access to the database based on the fact that the person is  
283 a designated employee of a licensed practitioner shall be denied access to the database when  
284 the practitioner is no longer licensed.

285           (19) A person who is a relative of a deceased individual is not entitled to access  
286 information from the database relating to the deceased individual based on the fact or claim  
287 that the person is:

288           (a) related to the deceased individual; or

289           (b) subrogated to the rights of the deceased individual.