

1                                   **PRESCRIPTIVE PRACTICE OF LEGEND**

2   **DRUGS**

3   2007 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5   **Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson**

6   House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

7 

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9  
10                   This bill amends the definition of unprofessional conduct and unlawful conduct in the  
11 Occupational and Professional Licensing Code regarding the issuance of a prescription  
12 for a drug or device.

13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14                   This bill:

- 15                   ▶ defines the bona fide patient-practitioner relationship required for a prescribing  
16 practitioner to issue a prescription;  
17                   ▶ repeals the provision that authorized the Division of Occupational and Professional  
18 Licensing to grant exceptions to the bona fide patient-practitioner relationship by  
19 administrative rule; and  
20                   ▶ makes technical amendments.

21 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

22                   None

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24                   This bill provides an immediate effective date.

25 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

26 AMENDS:

27                   **58-1-501**, as last amended by Chapter 280, Laws of Utah 2004



28 **58-17b-601**, as enacted by Chapter 280, Laws of Utah 2004



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

31 Section 1. Section **58-1-501** is amended to read:

32 **58-1-501. Unlawful and unprofessional conduct.**

33 (1) "Unlawful conduct" means conduct, by any person, that is defined as unlawful  
34 under this title and includes:

35 (a) practicing or engaging in, representing oneself to be practicing or engaging in, or  
36 attempting to practice or engage in any occupation or profession requiring licensure under this  
37 title if the person is:

38 (i) not licensed to do so or not exempted from licensure under this title; or

39 (ii) restricted from doing so by a suspended, revoked, restricted, temporary,  
40 probationary, or inactive license;

41 (b) impersonating another licensee or practicing an occupation or profession under a  
42 false or assumed name, except as permitted by law;

43 (c) knowingly employing any other person to practice or engage in or attempt to  
44 practice or engage in any occupation or profession licensed under this title if the employee is  
45 not licensed to do so under this title;

46 (d) knowingly permitting the person's authority to practice or engage in any occupation  
47 or profession licensed under this title to be used by another, except as permitted by law;

48 (e) obtaining a passing score on a licensure examination, applying for or obtaining a  
49 license, or otherwise dealing with the division or a licensing board through the use of fraud,  
50 forgery, or intentional deception, misrepresentation, misstatement, or omission; or

51 (f) [~~(i) unless Subsection (2)(m) or (4) applies,~~] issuing, or aiding and abetting in the  
52 issuance of, an order or prescription for a drug or device to a person located in this state:

53 [~~(A)~~] (i) without prescriptive authority conferred by a license issued under this title, or  
54 by an exemption to licensure under this title;

55 [~~(B)~~] (ii) with prescriptive authority conferred by an exception issued under this title or  
56 a multistate practice privilege recognized under this title, if the prescription was issued:

57 [~~(1) without first obtaining information, in the usual course of professional practice,~~  
58 ~~that is sufficient to establish a diagnosis, to identify underlying conditions, and to identify~~

59 ~~contraindications to the proposed treatment; or]~~

60  ~~[(H) based on a questionnaire completed by the patient on the internet, or toll-free~~  
61  ~~telephone number, when there exists no other bona fide patient-practitioner relationship; or]~~

62  ~~(A) without the existence of a bona fide patient-practitioner relationship, as defined in~~  
63  ~~Subsection (3), between the person with prescriptive authority and the patient;~~

64  ~~(B) without first obtaining information in the course of a bona fide patient-practitioner~~  
65  ~~relationship, as defined in Subsection (3), between the person with prescriptive authority and~~  
66  ~~the patient that is sufficient to establish a diagnosis, to identify conditions, and to identify~~  
67  ~~contraindications to the proposed treatment; or~~

68  ~~(C) based on information obtained from either:~~

69  ~~(I) a questionnaire or other assessment tool, whether interactive or otherwise,~~  
70  ~~completed by a patient on the Internet when there exists no bona fide patient-practitioner~~  
71  ~~relationship, as defined in Subsection (3), between the person with prescriptive authority and~~  
72  ~~the patient; or~~

73  ~~(II) a telephone interview, telephone questionnaire, or other telephonic assessment tool,~~  
74  ~~interactive or otherwise, when there exists no bona fide patient-practitioner relationship, as~~  
75  ~~defined in Subsection (3), between the person with prescriptive authority and the patient; or~~

76  ~~[(C)] (iii) in violation of Subsection (2)(m), when the licensed person who issued, or~~  
77  ~~aided and abetted another in the issuance of the prescription has violated Subsection (2)(m) on~~  
78  ~~more than 100 prescriptions within a 30 day period of time[; and].~~

79  ~~[(ii) Subsection (1)(f) does not apply to treatment rendered in an emergency, on-call or~~  
80  ~~cross coverage situation, provided that the person who issues the prescription has prescriptive~~  
81  ~~authority conferred by a license under this title, or is exempt from licensure under this title.]~~

82 (2) "Unprofessional conduct" means conduct, by a licensee or applicant, that is defined  
83 as unprofessional conduct under this title or under any rule adopted under this title and  
84 includes:

85 (a) violating, or aiding or abetting any other person to violate, any statute, rule, or order  
86 regulating an occupation or profession under this title;

87 (b) violating, or aiding or abetting any other person to violate, any generally accepted  
88 professional or ethical standard applicable to an occupation or profession regulated under this  
89 title;

90 (c) engaging in conduct that results in conviction, a plea of nolo contendere, or a plea  
91 of guilty or nolo contendere which is held in abeyance pending the successful completion of  
92 probation with respect to a crime of moral turpitude or any other crime that, when considered  
93 with the functions and duties of the occupation or profession for which the license was issued  
94 or is to be issued, bears a reasonable relationship to the licensee's or applicant's ability to safely  
95 or competently practice the occupation or profession;

96 (d) engaging in conduct that results in disciplinary action, including reprimand,  
97 censure, diversion, probation, suspension, or revocation, by any other licensing or regulatory  
98 authority having jurisdiction over the licensee or applicant in the same occupation or profession  
99 if the conduct would, in this state, constitute grounds for denial of licensure or disciplinary  
100 proceedings under Section 58-1-401;

101 (e) engaging in conduct, including the use of intoxicants, drugs, narcotics, or similar  
102 chemicals, to the extent that the conduct does, or might reasonably be considered to, impair the  
103 ability of the licensee or applicant to safely engage in the occupation or profession;

104 (f) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this  
105 title despite being physically or mentally unfit to do so;

106 (g) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this  
107 title through gross incompetence, gross negligence, or a pattern of incompetency or negligence;

108 (h) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession requiring licensure  
109 under this title by any form of action or communication which is false, misleading, deceptive,  
110 or fraudulent;

111 (i) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this  
112 title beyond the scope of the licensee's competency, abilities, or education;

113 (j) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this  
114 title beyond the scope of the licensee's license;

115 (k) verbally, physically, mentally, or sexually abusing or exploiting any person through  
116 conduct connected with the licensee's practice under this title or otherwise facilitated by the  
117 licensee's license;

118 (l) acting as a supervisor without meeting the qualification requirements for that  
119 position that are defined by statute or rule; or

120 (m) [~~unless Subsection (4) applies,~~] issuing, or aiding and abetting in the issuance of,

121 an order or prescription for a drug or device:

122 (i) without the existence of a bona fide patient-practitioner relationship, as defined in  
123 Subsection (3), between the person with prescriptive authority and the patient;

124 ~~[(i)]~~ (ii) without first obtaining information in [the usual course of professional  
125 practice;] the course of a bona fide patient-practitioner relationship, as defined in Subsection  
126 (3), between a person with prescriptive authority and the patient that is sufficient to establish a  
127 diagnosis, to identify conditions, and to identify contraindications to the proposed treatment; or

128 ~~[(ii) based on a questionnaire completed by the patient on the internet, or toll free~~  
129 ~~telephone number when there exists no other bona fide patient-practitioner relationship or bona~~  
130 ~~fide referral by a practitioner involved in an existing patient-practitioner relationship.]~~

131 ~~[(3) Subsections (2)(m)(i) and (ii) do not apply to treatment rendered in an emergency,~~  
132 ~~on-call, or cross coverage situation.]~~

133 ~~[(4) Notwithstanding Subsections (1)(f) and (2)(m), the division may permit a person~~  
134 ~~licensed to prescribe under this title to prescribe a legend drug to a person located in this state~~  
135 ~~if the division in collaboration with the appropriate professional board has permitted the~~  
136 ~~specific prescriptive practice of the legend drug by rule.]~~

137 (iii) based on information obtained from either:

138 (A) a questionnaire or other assessment tool, whether interactive or otherwise,  
139 completed by a patient on the Internet when there exists no bona fide patient-practitioner  
140 relationship, as defined in Subsection (3), between the person with prescriptive authority and  
141 the patient; or

142 (B) a telephone interview, telephone questionnaire, or other telephonic assessment tool,  
143 interactive or otherwise, when there exists no bona fide patient-practitioner relationship, as  
144 defined in Subsection (3), between the person with prescriptive authority and the patient.

145 (3) (a) For purposes of this section, "bona fide patient-practitioner relationship" means  
146 a relationship in which a person with prescriptive authority in this state, prior to issuing a  
147 prescription:

148 (i) ensures that a medical or drug history is obtained;

149 (ii) provides information to the patient about the benefits and risks of the drug being  
150 prescribed;

151 (iii) performs or has performed an appropriate examination of the patient either

152 physically, or by use of instrumentation and diagnostic equipment through which images and  
153 medical records may be transmitted electronically, within a reasonable period of time prior to  
154 the issuance of a prescription;

155 (iv) initiates additional interventions and follow-up care, if necessary, especially if the  
156 drug may have serious side effects; and

157 (v) ensures that appropriate physical, laboratory, or medical imaging examinations of  
158 the patient are done if needed for safe diagnosing or prescribing of that drug.

159 (b) Except for urgent medical problems, or cross-coverage and on-call situations, the  
160 medical examination of the patient required in Subsection (3)(a)(iii) must be conducted in  
161 person by:

162 (i) the prescribing practitioner; or

163 (ii) a practitioner within the group in which the prescribing practitioner practices.

164 Section 2. Section **58-17b-601** is amended to read:

165 **58-17b-601. General operating standards.**

166 (1) (a) The division shall make rules relating to the operations and conduct of facilities,  
167 individuals, and entities which are regulated under this chapter, to protect the public health,  
168 safety, and welfare.

169 (b) The rules shall be consistent with the regulations of the Federal Food and Drug  
170 Administration and Drug Enforcement Administration, this chapter, and all other laws relating  
171 to activities and persons regulated under this chapter.

172 (2) (a) This chapter does not prevent, restrict, or in any other manner interfere with the  
173 sale of nonprescription drugs.

174 (b) The division may not make any rules under this chapter that require nonprescription  
175 drugs to be sold by a licensed pharmacist or only in a pharmaceutical facility.

176 (c) The sale or distribution of nonprescription drugs does not constitute the practice of  
177 pharmacy.

178 (3) Administrative rules adopted by the division shall be uniformly applied to  
179 out-of-state Internet pharmacies and in-state Internet pharmacies.

180 Section 3. **Effective date.**

181 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect  
182 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah

183 Constitution Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,  
184 the date of veto override.

---

---

**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-17-07 6:28 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

---

---

**S.B. 146 - Prescriptive Practice of Legend Drugs**

**Fiscal Note**

2007 General Session  
State of Utah

---

---

**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

---

**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for local governments. Some internet pharmacies and their customers may be impacted.

---

*1/24/2007, 9:52:43 AM, Lead Analyst: Eckersley, S.*

**Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst**