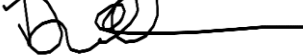





TO: Professional Practice Committee

FROM: Doug Lentivech 

SUBJECT: Pharmaceutical Delivery Kiosks

DATE: November 29, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Technologies developed in recent years allow patient access to prescription medications using self-service pharmaceutical kiosks. The development of self-service pharmaceutical kiosk technology, and its use in dispensing and delivering pharmaceuticals to patients, present unique issues within the current statutory and regulatory structure. Department staff will provide an overview of the types of currently available pharmaceutical technology, the statutory and regulatory framework and the policy issues associated with the use of such kiosks.

Reason for Consideration

For informational purposes.

Proposed Handling

This item will be presented to the Professional Practice Committee for discussion at the December 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The New York State Education Department, through the Office of the Professions, is responsible for the registration of all pharmacies that provide prescription drugs or prescription devices to the residents of New York State. Registration ensures public oversight of these businesses, supports the issuance of related permits, assures proper delivery of prescription drugs, and provides a means of assuring the purity, potency and safety of medications distributed in New York State.

Education Law Article 137, §6808 and Commissioner's Regulation §63.6 require a pharmacy establishment to meet certain requirements to be a registered pharmacy, including but not limited to physical layout, on-site supervision by a licensed/registered pharmacist, and the safe and secure storage of drugs. The development of self-service pharmaceutical kiosks, intended to store and dispense prescription medications directly to a patient, presents statutory and regulatory challenges and present a myriad of policy concerns, including but not limited to: patient counselling, secure and safe storage, and appropriate dispensing, among others. Some pharmaceutical kiosks are designed to be located and operate independently of a registered pharmacy establishment, including non-pharmacy retail settings, universities campuses, office buildings, etc.

The implementation of self-service pharmaceutical kiosks may provide efficiencies for both professionals and their patients, but proper oversight and authority is required to ensure prescription drugs are properly stored, prepared and dispensed and that patients receive both their medications and counseling as required. Several states have approved the utilization of these kiosks in various settings and circumstances. However, the deployment of these kiosks in other states are the result of legislation that address issues including: placement of the kiosk, security, safety, recordkeeping, patient consent, patient counseling, and technology reliability.

Staff will provide a general overview of various self-service pharmaceutical kiosks and a discussion of current statutory and regulatory pharmacy registration requirements. Staff will also be available to respond to any questions posed by the Committee.