

May 2012 Legislative Summary

Telepharmacy Legislation Passes

As many of you may know, Public Act 12-28: *An Act Concerning the Use of Telepharmacy by Hospitals*, was passed unanimously by both the Connecticut Legislature and signed into law by Governor Malloy on May 14, 2012. The Act permits all Connecticut hospitals to use telepharmacy in the dispensing of sterile products. A sterile product according to the act is defined as “any drug, as that term is defined in section 20-571 of the general statutes, that is compounded, manipulated or otherwise prepared under sterile conditions during the dispensing process, is not intended for self-administration by a patient and is intended to be used in a hospital, or its satellite, remote or affiliated office-based locations.” The law was set to go into effect on July 1, 2012.

By allowing area hospitals to use telepharmacy for sterile product dispensing, patients on IV treatments will be able to receive such treatments closer to home. Ultimately this act will allow pharmacists to verify sterile products made by pharmacy technician at a satellite location through the usage of real-time audio and visual feedback. At each step in the process, pharmacy technicians take photographs of the sterile product(s) which are then reviewed and verified in real-time by a pharmacist. Long-term storage of such products and quality improvement reviews may also be conducted under this act using telepharmacy. For more details regarding this Act click on the following link: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/TOB/H/2012HB-05329-R00-HB.htm>

May 9th, 2012

Great news everyone: SB 371 authorizing pharmacists to immunize for all adult vaccines passed the House this evening and is on its way to the Governor for his signature!

Thanks to the great advocacy of our members, and the collaborative efforts of the staffs and lobbyists of CSHP and CPA, pharmacists in Connecticut are poised to provide even further public health immunization efforts to our citizens.

March 2012

Good news on SB371. It passed out of the Public Health Committee with substitute language. They took out the two pharmacist provision as we requested. Since it's an expansion of a previous statute, it looks like it will go directly to the Senate floor for a vote without needing to go through other committees, then onto the House floor. We look to be in great shape. As a reminder, you can follow the status of this bill at this link:

http://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=371&which_year=2012&SUBMIT1.x=11&SUBMIT1.y=7

A note of appreciation: **Jan Kozakiewicz**, Director of Pharmacy at Hospital of St. Raphael, spent many hours at the State House last week and provided oral testimony on CSHP's behalf. We truly appreciate her contribution to this initiative.

CSHP 2012 Agenda

For this legislation session, CSHP be pursuing expansion of immunization authority to all vaccines from the current flu, pneumococcal and herpes zoster.