S.22

Introduced by Senators Lyons and McCormack

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; health care professionals; stem cell clinics

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require health care practitioners who administer stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide notice of this fact to their patients and in their advertisements and to provide a disclosure form to each patient prior to administering any non-FDA-approved stem cell product. It would also direct the Department of Health to amend its rules on advance directives to further clarify the scope of experimental treatments to which an agent may and may not provide consent on behalf of a principal.

An act relating to health care practitioners administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

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

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 87 is added to read:

CHAPTER 87. STEM CELL PRODUCTS

§ 4501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Health care practitioner" means an individual licensed by the Board of Medical Practice or by a board attached to the Office of Professional Regulation to provide professional health care services in this State.

(2) "Stem cell products" has the same meaning as "human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products" in 21 C.F.R. § 1271.3, as in effect on January 1, 2020, and applies to both homologous and nonhomologous use. The term also includes homologous use of minimally manipulated cell or tissue products, as those terms are defined in 21 C.F.R. § 1271.3, as in effect on January 1, 2020, when used or proposed for use in one or more applications not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

§ 4502. UNAPPROVED STEM CELL PRODUCTS; NOTICE; DISCLOSURE

(a) Notice.

(1) A health care practitioner who administers one or more stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall provide each patient with the following written notice prior to administering any such product to the patient for the first time:

"THIS NOTICE MUST BE PROVIDED TO YOU UNDER VERMONT LAW. This health care practitioner administers one or more stem cell products that have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. You

are encouraged to consult with your primary care provider prior to having an unapproved stem cell product administered to you."

(2)(A) The written notice required by subdivision (1) of this subsection shall:

(i) be at least 8.5 by 11 inches and printed in not less than 40-point type; and

(ii) include information on methods for filing a complaint with the applicable licensing authority and for making a consumer inquiry.

(B) The health care practitioner shall also prominently display the written notice required by subdivision (1) of this subsection, along with the information required to be included by subdivision (A)(ii) of this subdivision (2), at the entrance and in an area visible to patients in the health care practitioner's office.

(b) Disclosure.

(1) A health care practitioner who administers stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall provide a disclosure form to a patient for the patient's signature prior to each administration of an unapproved stem cell product.

(2) The disclosure form shall state, in language that the patient could reasonably be expected to understand, the stem cell product's U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval status.

(3) The health care practitioner shall retain in the patient's medical record a copy of each disclosure form signed and dated by the patient.

(c) Advertisements. A health care practitioner shall include the notice set forth in subdivision (a)(1) of this section in any advertisements relating to the use of stem cell products that are not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In print advertisements, the notice shall be clearly legible and in a font size not smaller than the largest font size used in the advertisement. For all other forms of advertisements, the notice shall either be clearly legible in a font size not smaller than the largest font size used in the advertisement or clearly spoken.

(d) Nonapplicability. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the following:

(1) a health care practitioner who has obtained approval or clearance for an investigational new drug or device from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the use of stem cell products; or

(2) a health care practitioner who administers a stem cell product pursuant to an employment or other contract to administer stem cell products on behalf of or under the auspices of an institution certified by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy, the National Institutes of Health Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network, or AABB, formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks.

(e) Violations. A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct under 3 V.S.A. § 129a and 26 V.S.A. § 1354.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 129a is amended to read:

§ 129a. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items or any combination of items, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(27) For a health care practitioner, failing to comply with one or more of the notice, disclosure, or advertising requirements in 18 V.S.A. § 4502 for administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

* * *

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 1354 is amended to read:

§ 1354. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(a) The Board shall find that any one of the following, or any combination of the following, whether the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, constitutes unprofessional conduct:

* * *

(38) signing a blank or undated prescription form; ~~or~~

(39) [Repealed.]

(40) use of conversion therapy as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 8351 on a client younger than 18 years of age; or

(41) failure to comply with one or more of the notice, disclosure, or advertising requirements in 18 V.S.A. § 4502 for administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; ADVANCE DIRECTIVES; RULEMAKING

The Department of Health shall amend its rules on advance directives to further clarify the scope of experimental treatments to which an agent may and may not provide consent on behalf of a principal. The Department's amended rules shall take effect not later than January 1, 2022.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.