

Senate Bill 215

By: Senators Walker III of the 20th, Burke of the 11th, Butler of the 55th, Hatchett of the 50th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to authorize certified
3 medication aides to administer certain medications to nursing home residents under certain
4 circumstances; to provide criteria and requirements; to provide that certified medication aides
5 are not authorized to administer Schedule II narcotic controlled substances; to provide for
6 related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 regulation of hospitals and related institutions, is amended by adding a new Code section to
12 read as follows:

13 "31-7-12.7.

14 (a) A nursing home may employ certified medication aides for the purpose of performing
15 the technical aspects of the administration of certain medications in accordance with this
16 Code section.

(b) A nursing home shall not employ an individual as a certified medication aide unless such individual is listed in the medication aide registry established and maintained by the department pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (g) of Code Section 31-7-12.2, is in good standing with the department, and has met all of the qualifications in paragraph (3) of subsection (g) of Code Section 31-7-12.2.

(c) A nursing home shall annually conduct a comprehensive clinical skills competency review of each certified medication aide employed by such nursing home.

(d) A certified medication aide who meets the criteria established in this Code section shall be permitted to perform the following tasks in a nursing home in accordance with the written instructions of a physician:

(1) Administer physician ordered oral, ophthalmic, topical, otic, nasal, vaginal, and rectal medications;

(2) Administer insulin, epinephrine, and B12 pursuant to physician direction and protocol;

(3) Administer medications via a metered dose inhaler;

(4) Conduct finger stick blood glucose testing following established protocol;

(5) Administer a commercially prepared disposable enema as ordered by a physician; and

(6) Assist residents in the supervision of self-administration of medications.

(e) A certified medication aide shall record in the medication administration record all medications that such certified medication aide has personally administered to a resident of a nursing home and any refusal of a resident to take a medication. A certified medication aide shall observe a resident to whom a medication has been administered and shall report any changes in the condition of such resident to a charge nurse.

(f) All medications administered by a certified medication aide in accordance with this Code section shall be in unit or multidose packaging.

(g) A nursing home that employs one or more certified medication aides to administer medications in accordance with this Code section shall secure the services of a licensed pharmacist to perform the following duties as part of the nursing home's peer review, medical review, and quality assurance functions:

(1) Perform a quarterly review of the drug regimen of each resident of the nursing home and report any irregularities to the nursing home administrator;

(2) Remove for proper disposal any drugs that are expired, discontinued, in a deteriorated condition, or when the resident for whom such drugs were ordered is no longer a resident;

(3) Establish or review policies and procedures for safe and effective drug therapy, distribution, use, and control; and

(4) Monitor compliance with established policies and procedures for medication handling and storage.

(h) A nursing home that employs one or more certified medication aides to administer medications in accordance with this Code section shall ensure that each certified medication aide receives ongoing medication training as prescribed by the department. A registered professional nurse or pharmacist shall conduct quarterly unannounced medication administration observations and report any issues to the nursing home administrator.

(i) Nothing in this Code section shall authorize certified medication aides to administer any Schedule II controlled substance that is a narcotic."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.