

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH40089-MGqq-42C* (02/18)

Short Title: Allow Substitution of Biosimilars. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dollar, S. Martin, Avila, and Lambeth (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE NORTH CAROLINA PHARMACY PRACTICE ACT TO
3 ALLOW FOR THE SUBSTITUTION OF AN INTERCHANGEABLE BIOLOGICAL
4 PRODUCT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 90-85.27 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 90-85.27. Definitions.

8 As used in G.S. 90-85.28 through G.S. 90-85.31:

9 (1) Biological product. – As defined in section 351(i) of the Public Health
10 Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 262(i).

11 (1a) ~~"Equivalent drug product" means~~ Equivalent drug product. – A drug
12 product which has the same established name, active ingredient, strength,
13 quantity, and dosage form, and which is therapeutically equivalent to the
14 drug product identified in the ~~prescription;~~ prescription.

15 (2) ~~"Established name" has the meaning given~~ Established name. – As defined in
16 section 502(e)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, ~~21 U.S.C.~~
17 ~~352(e)(3);~~ 21 U.S.C. § 352(e)(3).

18 (3) ~~"Good manufacturing practice" has the meaning given it~~ Good manufacturing
19 practice. – As defined in Part 211 of Chapter 1 of Title 21 of the Code of
20 Federal ~~Regulations;~~ Regulations.

21 (3a) Interchangeable biological product. – A biological product determined by
22 the United States Food and Drug Administration to meet the standards set
23 forth in 42 U.S.C. § 262(k)(4), or deemed therapeutically equivalent by the
24 United States Food and Drug Administration.

25 (4) ~~"Manufacturer" means the~~ Manufacturer. – The actual manufacturer of the
26 finished dosage form of the ~~drug;~~ drug.

27 (4a) ~~"Narrow therapeutic index drugs" means those~~ Narrow therapeutic index
28 drugs. – Those pharmaceuticals having a narrowly defined range between
29 risk and benefit. Such drugs have less than a twofold difference in the
30 minimum toxic concentration and minimum effective concentration in the
31 blood or are those drug product formulations that exhibit limited or erratic
32 absorption, formulation-dependent bioavailability, and wide inpatient
33 pharmacokinetic variability that requires blood-level monitoring. Drugs
34 identified as having narrow therapeutic indices shall be designated by the
35 North Carolina Secretary of Health and Human Services upon the advice of



1 the State Health Director, North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, and North
 2 Carolina Medical Board, as narrow therapeutic index drugs and shall be
 3 subject to the provisions of G.S. 90-85.28(b1). The North Carolina Board of
 4 Pharmacy shall submit the list of narrow therapeutic index drugs to the
 5 Codifier of Rules, in a timely fashion for publication in January of each year
 6 in the North Carolina Register.

- 7 (5) ~~"Prescriber" means anyone~~ Prescriber. – Anyone authorized to prescribe
 8 drugs pursuant to the laws of this State."

9 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 90-85.28 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 90-85.28. Selection by pharmacists permissible; prescriber may permit or prohibit**
 11 **selection; price limit on selected ~~drugs~~ drugs; communication of dispensed**
 12 **biological products under specified circumstances.**

13 (a) A pharmacist dispensing a prescription for a drug product prescribed by its brand
 14 name may select any equivalent drug or interchangeable biological product which meets all of
 15 the following standards:

- 16 (1) The manufacturer's name and the distributor's name, if different from the
 17 manufacturer's name, shall appear on the label of the stock ~~package;~~ package.
 18 (2) It shall be manufactured in accordance with current good manufacturing
 19 ~~practices;~~ practices.
 20 (3) ~~Effective January 1, 1982, all~~ All oral solid dosage forms shall have a logo,
 21 or other identification mark, or the product name to identify the
 22 manufacturer or ~~distributor;~~ distributor.
 23 (4) The manufacturer shall have adequate provisions for drug ~~recall;~~ and recall.
 24 (5) The manufacturer shall have adequate provisions for return of outdated
 25 drugs, through ~~his~~ the distributor or otherwise.

26 (b) The pharmacist shall not select an equivalent drug or interchangeable biological
 27 product if the prescriber instructs otherwise by one of the following methods:

- 28 (1) A prescription form shall be preprinted or stamped with two signature lines
 29 at the bottom of the form which read:

30 "
 31 _____ Dispense as Written"

32 On this form, the prescriber shall communicate ~~his~~ instructions to the
 33 pharmacist by signing the appropriate line.

- 34 (2) In the event the preprinted or stamped prescription form specified in ~~(b)(1)~~
 35 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section is not readily available, the
 36 prescriber may handwrite "Dispense as Written" or words or abbreviations
 37 of the same meaning on a prescription form.
 38 (3) When ordering a prescription orally, the prescriber shall specify either that
 39 the prescribed drug product be dispensed as written or that product selection
 40 is permitted. The pharmacist shall note the instructions on the file copy of
 41 the prescription and retain the prescription form for the period prescribed by
 42 law.

43 (b1) A prescription for a narrow therapeutic index drug shall be refilled using only the
 44 same drug product by the same manufacturer that the pharmacist last dispensed under the
 45 prescription, unless the prescriber is notified by the pharmacist prior to the dispensing of
 46 another manufacturer's product, and the prescriber and the patient give documented consent to
 47 the dispensing of the other manufacturer's product. For purposes of this subsection, the term
 48 "refilled" shall include a new prescription written at the expiration of a prescription which
 49 continues the patient's therapy on a narrow therapeutic index drug.

50 (b2) Within a reasonable time following the dispensing of a biological product, the
 51 pharmacist or a designee shall communicate to the prescriber the product name and

1 manufacturer of the specific biological product dispensed to the patient. This required
2 communication shall be through an interoperable electronic medical records system, electronic
3 prescribing technology, or a pharmacy record that is electronically accessible by the prescriber.
4 Otherwise, the pharmacist or a designee shall provide the required communication to the
5 prescriber by facsimile, telephone, electronic transmission, or other prevailing means, provided
6 that communication shall not be required under any of the following circumstances:

7 (1) There is no United States Food and Drug Administration-approved
8 interchangeable biological product for the product prescribed.

9 (2) A refill prescription is not changed from the product dispensed on the prior
10 filling of the prescription.

11 (b3) The Board of Pharmacy shall maintain a link on its Internet Web site to the current
12 list of biological products determined by the United States Food and Drug Administration to be
13 interchangeable with a specific biological product.

14 (c) The pharmacist shall not select an equivalent drug or interchangeable biological
15 product unless its price to the purchaser is less than the price of the prescribed drug product."

16 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 90-85.31 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 90-85.31. Prescriber and pharmacist liability not extended.**

18 The selection of an equivalent drug or interchangeable biological product pursuant to this
19 Article shall impose no greater liability upon the pharmacist for selecting the dispensed drug or
20 biological product or upon the prescriber of the same than would be incurred by either for
21 dispensing the drug or biological product specified in the prescription."

22 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 58-3-178(c)(4) reads as rewritten:

23 "(4) "Prescribed contraceptive drugs or devices" means drugs or devices that
24 prevent pregnancy and that are approved by the United States Food and
25 Drug Administration for use as contraceptives and obtained under a
26 prescription written by a health care provider authorized to prescribe
27 medications under the laws of this State. Prescription drugs or devices
28 required to be covered under this section shall not include:

29 a. The prescription drug known as "RU-486" or any "equivalent drug
30 product" as defined in ~~G.S. 90-85.27(1)~~.G.S. 90-85.27.

31 b. The prescription drug marketed under the name "Preven" or any
32 "equivalent drug product" as defined in
33 ~~G.S. 90-85.27(1)~~.G.S. 90-85.27."

34 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015.