

Health Care Worker Law:

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2002 EXAMINING AND LICENSING BOARDS

214.17 HIV, HBV, and HCV prevention program; purpose and scope.

Sections 214.17 to 214.25 are intended to promote the health and safety of patients and regulated persons by reducing the risk of infection in the provision of health care.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 9

214.18 Definitions.

Subdivision 1. Board. "Board" means the boards of dentistry, medical practice, nursing, and podiatric medicine. For purposes of sections 214.19, subdivisions 4 and 5; 214.20, paragraph (1); and 214.24, board also includes the board of chiropractic examiners.

Subd. 2. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of health.

Subd. 3. HBV. "HBV" means the hepatitis B virus with the e antigen present in the most recent blood test.

Subd. 3a. HCV. "HCV" means the hepatitis C virus.

Subd. 4. HIV. "HIV" means the human immunodeficiency virus.

Subd. 5. Regulated person. "Regulated person" means a licensed dental hygienist, dentist, physician, nurse who is currently registered as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, podiatrist, a registered dental assistant, a physician's assistant, and for purposes of sections 214.19, subdivisions 4 and 5; 214.20, paragraph (a); and 214.24, a chiropractor.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 10; 2000 c 422 s 19,20

214.19 Reporting obligations.

Subdivision 1. Permission to report. A person with actual knowledge that a regulated person has been diagnosed as infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV may file a report with the commissioner.

Subd. 2. Self-reporting. A regulated person who is diagnosed as infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV shall report that information to the commissioner promptly, and as soon as medically necessary for disease control purposes but no more than 30 days after learning of the diagnosis or 30 days after becoming licensed or registered by the state.

Subd. 3. Mandatory reporting. A person or institution required to report HIV, HBV, or HCV status to the commissioner under Minnesota Rules, parts 4605.7030, subparts 1 to 4 and 6, and 4605.7040, shall, at the same time, notify the commissioner if the person or institution knows that the reported person is a regulated person.

Subd. 4. Infection control reporting. A regulated person shall, within ten days, report to the appropriate board personal knowledge of a serious failure or a pattern of failure by another regulated person to comply with accepted and prevailing infection control procedures related to the prevention of HIV, HBV, and HCV transmission. In lieu of reporting to the board, the regulated person may make the report to a designated official of the hospital, nursing home, clinic, or other institution or agency where the failure to comply with accepted and prevailing infection control procedures occurred. The designated official shall report to the appropriate board within 30 days of receiving a report under this subdivision. The report shall include specific information about the response by the institution or agency to the report. A regulated person shall not be discharged or discriminated against for filing a complaint in good faith under this subdivision.

Subd. 5. Immunity. A person is immune from civil liability or criminal prosecution for submitting a report in good faith to the commissioner or to a board under this section.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 11; 2000 c 422 s 21

214.20 Grounds for disciplinary or restrictive action.

A board may refuse to grant a license or registration or may impose disciplinary or restrictive action against a regulated person who:

- (1) fails to follow accepted and prevailing infection control procedures, including a failure to conform to current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control for preventing the transmission of HIV, HBV, and HCV, or fails to comply with infection control rules promulgated by the board. Injury to a patient need not be established;
- (2) fails to comply with any requirement of sections 214.17 to 214.24; or
- (3) fails to comply with any monitoring or reporting requirement.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 12; 2000 c 422 s 22

214.21 Temporary suspension.

The board may, without hearing, temporarily suspend the right to practice of a regulated person if the board finds that the regulated person has refused to submit to or comply with monitoring under section 214.23. The suspension shall take effect upon written notice to the regulated person specifying the statute or rule violated. The suspension shall remain in effect until the board issues a final order based on a stipulation or after a hearing. At the

time the board issues the suspension notice, the board shall schedule a disciplinary hearing to be held under chapter 14. The regulated person shall be provided with at least 20 days' notice of a hearing held under this section. The hearing shall be scheduled to begin no later than 30 days after the issuance of the suspension order.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 13

214.22 Notice; action.

If the board has reasonable grounds to believe a regulated person infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV has done or omitted doing any act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under section 214.20, the board may take action after giving notice three business days before the action, or a lesser time if deemed necessary by the board. The board may:

- (1) temporarily suspend the regulated person's right to practice under section 214.21;
- (2) require the regulated person to appear personally at a conference with representatives of the board and to provide information relating to the regulated person's health or professional practice; and
- (3) take any other lesser action deemed necessary by the board for the protection of the public.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 14; 2000 c 422 s 23

214.23 Monitoring.

Subdivision 1. Commissioner of health. The board shall enter into a contract with the commissioner to perform the functions in subdivisions 2 and 3. The contract shall provide that:

- (1) unless requested to do otherwise by a regulated person, a board shall refer all regulated persons infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV to the commissioner;
- (2) the commissioner may choose to refer any regulated person who is infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV as well as all information related thereto to the person's board at any time for any reason, including but not limited to: the degree of cooperation and compliance by the regulated person; the inability to secure information or the medical records of the regulated person; or when the facts may present other possible violations of the regulated persons practices act. Upon request of the regulated person who is infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV the commissioner shall refer the regulated person and all information related thereto to the person's board. Once the commissioner has referred a regulated person to a board, the board may not thereafter submit it to the commissioner to establish a monitoring plan unless the commissioner of health consents in writing;

(3) a board shall not take action on grounds relating solely to the HIV, HBV, or HCV status of a regulated person until after referral by the commissioner; and

(4) notwithstanding sections 13.39 and 13.41 and chapters 147, 147A, 148, 150A, 153, and 214, a board shall forward to the commissioner any information on a regulated person who is infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV that the department of health requests.

Subd. 2. Monitoring plan. After receiving a report that a regulated person is infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV, the board or the commissioner acting on behalf of the board shall evaluate the past and current professional practice of the regulated person to determine whether there has been a violation under section 214.20. After evaluation of the regulated person's past and current professional practice, the board or the commissioner, acting on behalf of the board, shall establish a monitoring plan for the regulated person. The monitoring plan may:

(1) address the scope of a regulated person's professional practice when the board or the commissioner, acting on behalf of the board, determines that the practice constitutes an identifiable risk of transmission of HIV, HBV, or HCV from the regulated person to the patient;

(2) include the submission of regular reports at a frequency determined by the board or the commissioner, acting on behalf of the board, regarding the regulated person's health status; and

(3) include any other provisions deemed reasonable by the board or the commissioner of health, acting on behalf of the board.

The board or commissioner, acting on behalf of the board, may enter into agreements with qualified persons to perform monitoring on its behalf. The regulated person shall comply with any monitoring plan established under this subdivision.

Subd. 3. Expert review panel. The board or the commissioner acting on behalf of the board may appoint an expert review panel to assist in the performance of the responsibilities under this section. In consultations with the expert review panel, the commissioner or board shall, to the extent possible, protect the identity of the regulated person. When an expert review panel is appointed, it must contain at least one member appointed by the commissioner and one professional member appointed by the board. The panel shall provide expert assistance to the board, or to the commissioner acting on behalf of the board, in the subjects of infectious diseases, epidemiology, practice techniques used by regulated persons, and other subjects determined by the board or by the commissioner acting on behalf of the board. Members of the expert review panel are subject to those provisions of chapter 13 that restrict the commissioner or the board under Laws 1992, chapter 559, article 1.

Subd. 4. Immunity. Members of the board or the commissioner acting on behalf of the board, and persons who participate on an expert review panel or who assist the board or the commissioner in monitoring the practice of a regulated person, are immune from civil liability or criminal prosecution for any actions, transactions, or publications made in good faith and in execution of, or relating to, their duties under sections 214.17 to 214.24, except that no immunity shall be available for persons who have knowingly violated any provision of chapter 13.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 15; 1995 c 205 art 2 s 7; 2000 c 422 s 24,25

214.24 Inspection of practice.

Subdivision 1. Authority. The board is authorized to conduct inspections of the clinical practice of a regulated person to determine whether the regulated person is following accepted and prevailing infection control procedures. The board shall provide at least three business days' notice to the clinical practice prior to the inspection. The clinical practice of a regulated person includes any location where the regulated person practices that is not an institution licensed and subject to inspection by the commissioner of health. During the course of inspections the privacy and confidentiality of patients and regulated persons shall be maintained. The board may require on license renewal forms that regulated persons inform the board of all locations where they practice.

Subd. 2. Access; records. An inspector from the board shall have access, during reasonable business hours for purposes of inspection, to all areas of the practice setting where patient care is rendered or drugs or instruments are held that come into contact with a patient. An inspector is authorized to interview employees and regulated persons in the performance of an inspection, to observe infection control procedures, test equipment used to sterilize instruments, and to review and copy all relevant records, excluding patient health records. In performing these responsibilities, inspectors shall make reasonable efforts to respect and preserve patient privacy and the privacy of the regulated person. Boards are authorized to conduct joint inspections and to share information obtained under this section. The boards shall contract with the commissioner to perform the duties under this subdivision.

Subd. 3. Board action. If accepted and prevailing infection control techniques are not being followed, the board may educate the regulated person or take other actions. The board and the inspector shall maintain patient confidentiality in any action resulting from the inspection.

Subd. 4. Rulemaking. A board is authorized to adopt rules setting standards for infection control procedures. Boards shall engage in joint rulemaking. Boards must seek and consider the advice of the commissioner of health before adopting rules. No inspections shall be conducted under this section until after infection control rules have been adopted. Each board is authorized to provide educational information and training to regulated persons regarding infection control. All regulated persons who are

employers shall make infection control rules available to employees who engage in functions related to infection control.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 16

214.25 Data privacy.

Subdivision 1. Board data. (a) All data collected or maintained as part of the board's duties under sections 214.19, 214.23, and 214.24 shall be classified as investigative data under section 13.39 except that inactive investigative data shall be classified as private data under section 13.02, subdivision 12, or nonpublic data under section 13.02, subdivision 9, in the case of data not on individuals.

(b) Notwithstanding section 13.05, subdivision 9, data addressed in this subdivision shall not be disclosed except as provided in this subdivision or section 13.04; except that the board may disclose to the commissioner under section 214.23.

Subd. 2. Commissioner of health data. (a) All data collected or maintained as part of the commissioner of health's duties under sections 214.19, 214.23, and 214.24 shall be classified as investigative data under section 13.39, except that inactive investigative data shall be classified as private data under section 13.02, subdivision 12, or nonpublic data under section 13.02, subdivision 9, in the case of data not on individuals.

(b) Notwithstanding section 13.05, subdivision 9, data addressed in this subdivision shall not be disclosed except as provided in this subdivision or section 13.04; except that the commissioner may disclose to the boards under section 214.23.

(c) The commissioner may disclose data addressed under this subdivision as necessary: to identify, establish, implement, and enforce a monitoring plan; to investigate a regulated person; to alert persons who may be threatened by illness as evidenced by epidemiologic data; to control or prevent the spread of HIV, HBV, or HCV disease; or to diminish an imminent threat to the public health.

HIST: 1992 c 559 art 1 s 17; 2000 c 422 s 26