
CHAPTER 239

VENEREAL DISEASES

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CHAPTER 239

VENEREAL DISEASES

An Act relating to venereal disease.

[Commencement 12th July, 1945]

21 of 1945
3 of 1946
G.N. 7(10) of 1964
E.L.A.O., 1974
5 of 1987

1. This Act may be cited as the Venereal Diseases Act. Short title.
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
 “child” means a person under fourteen years of age;
 “hospital” means the Princess Margaret Hospital;
 “medical officer” means a medical officer on the public establishment of The Bahamas;
 “medical practitioner” means a person registered under the Medical Act. Ch. 224.
 “Minister” means the Minister responsible for Medical, Nursing and Health Services; E.L.A.O., 1974.
 “pharmacist” means a person licensed under the Pharmacy Act and includes chemist and apothecary; Ch. 227.
 “prescribed” means prescribed by this Act or by rules made thereunder;
 “prescribed form” means a form substantially similar to the appropriate form set out in the Schedule to this Act or any variation thereof that may be prescribed; Schedule.
 “venereal disease” includes gonorrhoea, gonorrhoeal ophthalmia, syphilis, soft chancre, venereal warts, venereal granuloma and lymphogranuloma inguinale. Persons permitted to treat venereal disease.
3. No person other than a medical officer or a medical practitioner or a person acting under the direction or instructions of a medical officer or medical practitioner shall attend upon, treat or supply any drug or medicine designed to alleviate or cure venereal disease to any person suffering from or suspected to be suffering from venereal disease, or prescribe any remedy therefor or give any

advice in connection with the treatment thereof, whether the advice is given to the person so suffering or suspected to be suffering from such disease or to any other person on the former's behalf:

Provided that this section shall not apply to any pharmacist who dispenses to the patient of a medical officer or a medical practitioner the prescription of such medical officer or medical practitioner if such prescription is dated and bears the usual signature or initials of such medical officer or medical practitioner.

Restrictions on
advertisements,
etc.

4. (1) No person shall by any advertisement or any public notice or announcement treat or offer to supply any drug or medicine to any person suffering or suspected to be suffering from venereal disease or prescribe or offer to prescribe any remedy therefor or give or offer to give any advice in connection with the treatment thereof.

(2) No person shall dispose of or attempt to dispose of to any other person by sale, gift or in any manner whatsoever, any medicines or medicaments for the prevention, cure or relief of any venereal disease:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to any offer or recommendation made or published by or with the sanction of the Minister or to any publication sent only to medical practitioners or to wholesale or retail pharmacists for the purposes of their business.

Duty of person
suffering from
venereal disease
to place himself
under treatment.

5. (1) Every person suffering from venereal disease or suspecting that he is suffering shall on becoming aware of or suspecting his condition immediately consult a medical practitioner thereon, furnish his correct name and address to such medical practitioner and, if on examination he be found to be suffering from any such disease, place himself under treatment by such medical practitioner or shall attend at the hospital, furnish his correct name and address and if on examination he be found so to be suffering, place himself under treatment by a medical officer thereat, until he shall be certified in writing by such medical practitioner or such medical officer to be cured of such venereal disease, or to be no longer liable to convey infection, as the case may be.

(2) If any such person desires to change his medical practitioner or if the medical practitioner attending such person dies or for any reason is unable or unwilling to

3 of 1946, s. 2.

attend him further, such person shall forthwith consult and place himself under treatment by another medical practitioner and inform the latter of the name of his last previous medical practitioner or shall forthwith attend at the hospital and place himself under treatment thereat and inform the medical officer of the name of his last medical practitioner.

(3) Such medical practitioner or medical officer consulted by any such person shall forthwith send to the medical practitioner or medical officer last treating such person a notice in the prescribed Form A. of the change made by the patient.

Schedule.

6. Whenever a person suffering from venereal disease is under treatment by a medical officer or a medical practitioner and fails to obey his instructions then and in every such case such medical officer or medical practitioner shall forthwith notify in writing the Chief Medical Officer of such failure to obey his instructions.

Duty of medical practitioner to require patient to continue treatment.

7. (1) Whenever the Chief Medical Officer is aware or has reasonable cause to suspect and believe and does suspect and believe that any person is suffering from a venereal disease he shall, unless he is satisfied that such person is under treatment therefor by a medical practitioner or medical officer, forthwith serve or cause to be served on such person personally a notice in writing in the prescribed Form B. addressed to such person marked "confidential" and directing such person within three days from the date of the service upon him of such notice to attend at the hospital to undergo medical examination for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not such person is so suffering and, if so suffering, to receive medical treatment.

Power of C.M.O. to require person suspected of suffering from venereal disease to place himself under treatment.

Schedule.

(2) If any such person shall fail, neglect or refuse to comply with the directions aforesaid a magistrate, on application to him by the Chief Medical Officer or by some person appointed by him for the purpose, may by order in writing addressed to a peace officer direct such person so failing, neglecting or refusing as aforesaid to be taken to the hospital for treatment or for examination by a medical officer and shall also in the said order direct such person to submit himself to such treatment or examination.