It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 5-19.1 of the General Laws entitled “Pharmacies” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

5-19.1-34.1. Tobacco cessation therapy prescriptive authority.

(a) A pharmacist who is licensed pursuant to this chapter and who meets the requirements of this section may prescribe and dispense first line tobacco cessation drug therapies to a qualified patient pursuant to rules adopted by the board of pharmacy.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “qualified patient” means a patient who:

(1) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

(2) Is willing to participate in a structured tobacco cessation program consisting of an initial evaluation and appropriate follow-up visits with the pharmacist prescribing tobacco cessation products; and

(3) Has been educated on symptoms of nicotine toxicity, common and/or severe adverse effects of prescribed medication(s), and when to seek medical treatment.

(c) Prior to prescribing tobacco cessation products, the pharmacist must successfully complete a course on tobacco cessation therapy taught by a provider accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education or by a comparable provider recognized by the board of pharmacy.

(d) The pharmacist may refer high risk patients or patients with an identified contraindication to first line tobacco cessation drug therapies to the patient's primary care provider, as applicable, or to another provider, as appropriate.
(e) All pharmacists participating in prescribing therapy for tobacco cessation will follow the US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Clinical Practice Guideline: Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update (or subsequent updates as they become available), or the most updated standard of care as approved by board of pharmacy.

(1) Pharmacists will implement the Five A's (ask, advise, assess, assist, arrange) to help patients quit using all forms of tobacco.

(2) Pharmacists' services will include an educational component to include counseling on medication therapies and cessation strategies as well as referral to sources provided by the Rhode Island department of health.

(f) Notification of the patient screening, the prescription record and the follow-up care plan shall be provided to the patient's primary care provider, as applicable, within five (5) business days following the prescribing of a tobacco cessation product.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - PHARMACIES

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1 This act would authorize a licensed pharmacist, who successfully completes a course on
tobacco cessation therapy, to prescribe and dispense tobacco cessation drug products to a qualified
patient pursuant to rules adopted by the board of pharmacy. The act would also provide that in
order for a willing patient to qualify, he or she must be 18 years of age, evaluated and educated in
the tobacco cessation products.
6 This act would take effect upon passage.