Hospitals May Be Required to Test for Certain Synthetic Opioids in Urine Drug Screening

June 30, 2023

Assembly Bill 5489, introduced in the New Jersey General Assembly on May 18, 2023, would require any hospital conducting a urine drug screening to assist in diagnosing a patient's condition to also include a test for the presence of certain synthetic opioids. Currently, urine drug screenings typically include tests for cocaine, certain opioids, and phencyclidine, but not additional synthetic opioids. Mandatory testing for the presence of certain synthetic opioids could help prevent overdose deaths by ensuring that patients who have ingested certain synthetic opioids, either intentionally or unintentionally, receive proper treatment for a synthetic opioid overdose.

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