

FCR the purpose of permitting physicians to prescribe or administer ~~laetrile~~ ~~(amygdalin)~~ amygdalin in the treatment of cancer under certain circumstances; prohibiting hospitals and health facilities from restricting such use; providing for hearings by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to determine whether such use should be prohibited or restricted; ~~and prohibiting certain disciplinary actions against physicians who prescribe or administer laetrile~~ ~~(amygdalin)~~ amygdalin.

BY adding to

Article 43 - Health  
Section 133(d) ~~and (e)~~ (e) and (f)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1971 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

133.

~~(D) A PHYSICIAN MAY PRESCRIBE OR ADMINISTER LAETRILE~~ ~~(-AMYGDALIN-)~~ IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER. A HOSPITAL OR HEALTH FACILITY MAY NOT RESTRICT OR FORBID THE USE OF LAETRILE ~~(-AMYGDALIN-)~~ WHEN PRESCRIBED OR ADMINISTERED BY A PHYSICIAN TO A PATIENT WHO HAS CONSENTED TO USE OF THE SUBSTANCE. USE OF LAETRILE ~~(-AMYGDALIN-)~~ MAY BE RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED IF THE SUBSTANCE AS PRESCRIBED OR ADMINISTERED BY THE PHYSICIAN IS FOUND TO BE HARMFUL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE IN A HEARING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING HEARINGS UNDER THIS SECTION.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE AND THE BOARD OF PHARMACY SHALL REGULATE THE MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF AMYGDALIN FOR USE WITHIN THE STATE ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSURING THAT THE SUBSTANCE IS NOT ADULTERATED, CONTAMINATED BY MICROORGANISMS, OR MISBRANDED.

~~(E)(F) A PHYSICIAN MAY NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE COMMISSION ON MEDICAL DISCIPLINE OR BY ANY OTHER AGENCY, BOARD, OR BODY SOLELY FOR PRESCRIBING OR ADMINISTERING LAETRILE (AMYGDALIN) TO A PATIENT UNDER THE PHYSICIAN'S CARE WHO HAS CONSENTED TO USE OF THE SUBSTANCE, UNLESS A FORMAL FINDING HAS BEEN MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION THAT THE SUBSTANCE AS PRESCRIBED OR ADMINISTERED IS HARMFUL TO THE PATIENT'S HEALTH.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act