

MEDICAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRANSPORTATION ACT

The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 prohibits the transportation and storage of controlled substances away from the site of storage that's registered with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This is highly problematic for athletic team physicians who need the ability to maintain a limited supply of medication for those instances where a player is injured during games that are away from home. It also limits the ability of physicians seeking to travel to treat patients at a disaster site or rural area.

Current options for a team's medical staff include pre-dispensing medication to specific athletes prior to travel or delegating the dispensing of controlled substances to local physicians. Coordinating the time for local physicians to examine the patient and dispense the medication is not only difficult given often rigorous travel schedules, it's not conducive to delivering the best possible care for the patient.

Why the Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act Matters:

The Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2017 (H.R. 1492) introduced by Congressman Pete Sessions, will allow traveling physicians, such as sports team doctors, to **safely and legally transport controlled substances for a 72-hour period**. This bill provides the traveling physician with the guidance and oversight they need to be able to appropriately manage the injury – short of surgery or hospitalization – in a way that provides the best quality care. These physicians need to be able to safely and securely prescribe and dispense controlled substances when medically appropriate.

This legislation does not diminish the need or requirement for controlled substances to be monitored. **In fact, this will result in increased accountability for the physician than is current practice, thus decreasing the potential for abuse.** The team physician will be responsible for the security of the controlled substances throughout the entire 72-hour period.

The Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act clearly defines the rules for travelling physicians carrying and prescribing controlled substances. **It puts the patient's safety first, while providing the necessary oversight to ensure that physicians carry these substances securely and responsibly.**

The Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act will:

- **Allow traveling physicians to apply to the DEA for a separate mobile registration. This will allow them to transport controlled substances between practice settings for up to 72 hours while maintaining updated records of transport and dispensing.**
- **Provide more oversight and transparency for team physicians and other traveling doctors who need to be able to carry and dispense controlled substances to treat patients.**
- **Allow traveling athletes or those who suffer injuries in a disaster area or rural location to receive the best possible care from the physician in the best position to deliver that care.**

What Congress Should Do:

Congress should support the passage of the Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act (H.R. 1492).

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