

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking

Establishing the New Jersey Dysmenorrhea Research and Therapeutic Evaluation Initiative

Petitioner: Caleb L. McGillvary, Trenton State Prison.

Take notice that on July 24, 2026, the Department of Health (Department) received a petition for rulemaking from Caleb L. McGillvary, Trenton State Prison, Trenton, New Jersey.

Substance or Nature of the Requested Rulemaking Action

The petitioner requests that the Department promulgate a new rule to establish “a statewide research, surveillance, and public-health initiative concerning dysmenorrhea and the potential therapeutic use of sildenafil citrate for treatment of primary dysmenorrhea.”

The petitioner states that his interest in the requested rulemaking is his status as a resident of the State who is interested “in improving women’s health outcomes, reducing unnecessary pain and disability, promoting evidence-based medicine, and ensuring that potentially beneficial therapies receive adequate scientific evaluation” and “in reducing preventable losses of educational attainment, workplace productivity, healthcare expenditures, and quality of life associated with dysmenorrhea.”

Problem or Purpose of the Request

The petitioner states that the problem that the requested rulemaking would address is that “[p]rimary dysmenorrhea is among the most prevalent gynecological

conditions affecting reproductive-age women” and that published epidemiological studies (no citations provided) have estimated prevalence rates ranging “from approximately 45 percent to more than 90 percent of menstruating women, with severe symptoms affecting a substantial subset of sufferers.” The petitioner states that studies (no citations provided) “have identified dysmenorrhea as one of the leading causes of recurrent short-term school absenteeism and workplace productivity loss among young women” and that researchers (no citations provided) “have estimated that dysmenorrhea contributes to hundreds of millions of lost work hours annually within the United States. The resulting economic burden extends beyond affected individuals and impacts employers, educational institutions, healthcare systems, and taxpayers.” The petitioner states that “existing therapies are imperfect” and “additional evidence-based treatment options remain a matter of significant public interest.”

The petitioner provides the following as suggested text of the new rules:

“TITLE 8. HEALTH

CHAPTER 52. PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH IN NEW JERSEY

SUBCHAPTER 15A. DYSMENORRHEA RESEARCH AND THERAPEUTIC EVALUATION INITIATIVE

N.J.A.C. 8:52-15A.1 Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to facilitate research, data collection, and public-health evaluation concerning dysmenorrhea and potential therapeutic interventions, including sildenafil citrate.

N.J.A.C. 8:52–15A.2 Establishment of Initiative

The Department shall establish a Dysmenorrhea Research and Therapeutic Evaluation Initiative.

N.J.A.C. 8:52–15A.3 Research Coordination

The Department may collaborate with:

- (a) Rutgers University;
- (b) New Jersey Medical School;
- (c) Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine;
- (d) hospitals;
- (e) federally funded research institutions;
- (f) other qualified entities.

N.J.A.C. 8:52-15A.4 Research Priorities

The Initiative shall encourage research regarding:

- (a) prevalence of dysmenorrhea;
- (b) economic impacts;
- (c) educational impacts;
- (d) healthcare utilization;
- (e) sildenafil citrate as a treatment for dysmenorrhea;
- (f) comparative effectiveness of available therapies.

N.J.A.C. 8:52–15A.5 Public Report

The Department shall publish a report every two years summarizing:

- (a) prevalence data;
- (b) economic impact data;
- (c) research findings;

(d) recommendations for future study.”

In accordance with the provisions at N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.3, the Department will subsequently mail to the petitioner and file with the Office of Administrative Law a notice of action on the petition.