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Kansas Healing Arts to consider tighter Lipodissolve regulations

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A proposal to tighten the regulation of Lipodissolve, a controversial drug treatment that breaks up body fat, is scheduled to come before the **Kansas State Board of Healing Arts** Dec. 7.

The board will consider a temporary regulation that includes several restrictions on Lipodissolve injections. Among them are provisions that a physician must examine a patient before administering the compound, and patients must be given a description of known side effects, such as nodules and infections.

"We don't want a drive-through window," Mark Stafford, the board's general counsel, said Wednesday. "This is the practice of medicine. And any physician who wants to get into this business better practice medicine in an appropriate manner."

The board in August voted to restrict the use of Lipodissolve to investigational drug trials, but Shawnee County District Judge David Bruns issued a ruling that blocked the ban on Sept. 13, the day before it was to go into effect. Bruns did not address the merits of the treatment but said the board did not obtain enough public input before approving the ban. The court sent the matter back to the board.

Lipodissolve is administered in a series of injections over a few months, at a typical cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000. Industry officials and experts have estimated that the treatment is dispensed by 12 to 30 clinics in the Kansas City area, on both sides of the state line.

The proposed temporary regulation has won the support of **Fig**, a St. Louis-based company that administers Lipodissolve and related treatments at a clinic in Overland Park.

"Fig supports the board in its desire to elevate the standard of care in the administration of Lipodissolve in the state of Kansas," said Fig spokeswoman Katie Rees.

If the healing arts board votes for the temporary regulation, it will take effect if it is then approved by a state board that considers rules and regulations passed by other boards, Stafford said.

If the temporary regulation receives all the necessary approvals it will be effective for 120 days, Stafford said. During that time, the Board of Healing Arts would have a public hearing and consider a permanent regulation, he said.

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