

Expanding Patient Health Care Access: Pharmacy-Based Medication Administration

Pharmacists: Part of the Solution

Patients throughout Minnesota are experiencing issues accessing medication and related administration services, in some cases because more medications are injectable products. They may need to pick the medication up at the pharmacy then have issues driving an hour or two to a clinic where the medication can be administered. In some cases, they may have clinic access but incur an additional clinic visit cost. These situations span both rural and urban areas and a number of disease states. Examples include long-acting antipsychotics for patients with mental health conditions, Prolia for osteoporosis, Makena for women at risk of delivering pre-term infants, and other medications used in oncology, osteoporosis, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, hormone deficiency, and fertility among others.

Allowing pharmacists to administer medication would allow patients to avoid numerous challenges such as scheduling conflicts with prescribers, difficulty with medication adherence, issues with medication access, and a lack of knowledge of the medication or administration. When providing administration, pharmacists follow the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioner's (JCPP) Patient Care process, including collecting pertinent patient information, assessing this information, developing a patient-centered plan, provider communication, and ongoing monitoring and evaluating efficacy. As part of this process, pharmacists meet with patients regularly to provide education and help patients manage all prescribed medications, support interventions that improve the quality of care, engage as part of the health care team, and ensure that patients are receiving the expected benefits from treatment. Pharmacist administration can also assist patients who struggle with self-injection by providing initial education and support on medication self-administration, ensuring appropriate follow-up to monitor proper technique, reporting any adverse events, and removing barriers to adherence. Pharmacists offer knowledgeable, accessible, and personal care to patients, improving quality of care and patient experiences.

This bill would allow pharmacists to administer medications. This requires only a minor change in the Practice Act as follows:

The practice of Pharmacy means (4) participation in drug and therapeutic device selection; drug administration **for first dosage and medical emergencies**; drug regimen reviews; and drug or drug-related research;

For More Information

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Bill Numbers:

Bill Sponsor(s):



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KEY TALKING POINTS

- Minnesota pharmacists can currently provide medication administration/injection services for 1st dose and emergency situations.
- Patients who are unable to receive their medication injection conveniently are at risk of lower adherence, which results in lack of medication effectiveness and increased healthcare costs.
- There is a lack of access to care in rural Minnesota. Pharmacists are one of the most accessible healthcare professionals and can support closing this gap.
- Benefits to patients include: increased access to care, improved medication adherence, and increased quality of care, and lower healthcare costs.
- The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) recently released practice guidance for pharmacies to follow when implementing pharmacy-based medication administration.
- Twenty-nine states currently allow pharmacists to provide medication administration and injection services, including WI, IA, and ND.

How to Implement the Pharmacists' Patient Care Process

