

Chapter 757

(House Bill 135)

AN ACT concerning

**Pharmacists – Administration of Self-Administered Medications and
Maintenance Injectable Medications
(Christopher King Access to Treatment Act)**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a pharmacist who meets the requirements of certain regulations to administer maintenance injectable medications to a patient under certain circumstances; prohibiting a pharmacist from administering an initial dose of a maintenance injectable medication under a certain provision of this Act except under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board of Pharmacy, on or before a certain date and in consultation with the State Board of Physicians and the State Board of Nursing, to adopt certain regulations for pharmacists to administer a maintenance injectable medication; establishing certain requirements for the regulations; requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children’s Health Program to provide coverage for the administering of certain self-administered medications and maintenance injectable medications rendered by a licensed pharmacist to the same extent as the services rendered by any other licensed health care practitioner; requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the administering of certain self-administered medications and maintenance injectable medications rendered by a licensed pharmacist to the same extent as the services rendered by any other licensed health care practitioner; altering a certain definition; defining a certain term; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the administering of self-administered medications and maintenance injectable medications by pharmacists.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 15–148(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 12–101(a) and (c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Health Occupations
Section 12–101(o–1)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 12–101(x)(1)(viii) and 12–509
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Insurance
Section 15–716
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

15–148.

(c) The Program and the Maryland Children’s Health Program shall provide coverage for services, **TO THE SAME EXTENT AS SERVICES RENDERED BY ANY OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER**, rendered to an enrollee by a licensed pharmacist under:

(1) § 12–509 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE IN ADMINISTERING SELF–ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS OR MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS; OR

(2) § 12–511 of the Health Occupations Article[, to the same extent as services rendered by any other licensed health care practitioner,] in screening an enrollee and prescribing contraceptives for the enrollee.

Article – Health Occupations

12–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(c) “Biological product” has the meaning stated in 42 U.S.C. § 262.

(O–1) (1) “MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION” MEANS A MEDICATION THAT:

(I) IS ADMINISTERED BY INJECTION OTHER THAN INTRAVENOUSLY; AND

(II) TREATS A CHRONIC NEED, CONDITION, OR DISORDER.

(2) “MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION” INCLUDES A MEDICATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF A PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, CONTRACEPTION, AND VITAMINS.

(x) (1) “Practice pharmacy” means to engage in any of the following activities:

(viii) Administering vaccinations in accordance with § 12–508 of this title or self-administered drugs **OR MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS** in accordance with § 12–509 of this title;

12–509.

(A) In addition to the authority granted to a pharmacist under § 12–508 of this subtitle, a pharmacist, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board, may administer [a]:

(1) A self-administered drug to a patient that is prescribed by an authorized prescriber; **AND**

(2) **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION THAT IS NOT A BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT TO A PATIENT:**

(I) THAT IS PRESCRIBED BY AN AUTHORIZED PRESCRIBER;

(II) IN ACCORDANCE WITH A STANDING ORDER ISSUED BY AN AUTHORIZED PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL; OR

(III) IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROTOCOL UNDER SUBTITLE 6A OF THIS TITLE.

(B) A PHARMACIST MAY NOT ADMINISTER AN INITIAL DOSE OF A MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION PRODUCT UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION UNLESS THE PHARMACIST RECEIVES WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE PRESCRIBER.

(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, ~~2022~~ 2021, THE BOARD, JOINTLY WITH THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS AND THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING STANDARD PROCEDURES:

(I) FOR NOTIFYING A PATIENT ABOUT PAYMENT FOR SERVICES BEFORE THE PHARMACIST ADMINISTERS A MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION;

~~**(II)**~~ **THAT A PHARMACIST MUST USE TO ADMINISTER A MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION AFTER AN INITIAL DOSE IS ADMINISTERED BY THE PRESCRIBER;**

~~**(III)**~~ **THAT A PHARMACIST MUST USE TO ADMINISTER AN INITIAL DOSE OF A MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION IF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INITIAL DOSE IS AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

~~**(IV)**~~ **FOR COMMUNICATING TO THE PRESCRIBER WHETHER A MEDICATION WAS ADMINISTERED TO A SPECIFIC PATIENT AND RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PATIENT'S CONDITION.**

(2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL REQUIRE A PHARMACIST TO:

(I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, COMPLETE A TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE BOARD FOR:

1. ADMINISTERING MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS; AND

2. MANAGING THE POPULATIONS THE PHARMACIST SERVES, THE MEDICATIONS BEING ADMINISTERED, AND THE CURRENT GUIDELINES RELATING TO THESE POPULATIONS AND MEDICATIONS;

(II) FOLLOW THE STANDARD PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD; AND

(III) AFTER ADMINISTERING A MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION:

1. NOTIFY THE PRESCRIBER THAT THE MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION WAS ADMINISTERED AND OF ANY RELEVANT DETAILS ABOUT THE PATIENT'S CONDITION;

2. PROVIDE THE PATIENT WITH A WRITTEN RECORD OF THE MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION ADMINISTERED;

3. RECORD IN ANY ELECTRONIC OR WRITTEN HEALTH RECORD ON THE PATIENT MAINTAINED BY THE PHARMACIST:

A. THE ADMINISTERING OF THE MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATION; AND

B. ANY PERTINENT DETAILS ABOUT THE PATIENT’S CONDITION; AND

4. NOTIFY THE PATIENT OF THE NEED TO ATTEND ANY UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS THE PATIENT HAS SCHEDULED WITH THE PRESCRIBER.

(3) THE REGULATIONS SHALL WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR A PHARMACIST WHO ALREADY HAS UNDERGONE THE TRAINING AS PART OF THE PHARMACIST’S FORMAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

Article – Insurance

15–716.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, OR BLANKET HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES AND CONTRACTS DELIVERED OR ISSUED FOR DELIVERY IN THE STATE BY INSURERS, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS, AND HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS ~~FOR~~ THAT PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR PATIENT ASSESSMENT REGARDING, AND ADMINISTRATION OF, SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS AND MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS.

(B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY A LICENSED PHARMACIST UNDER § 12–509 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS COVERED UNDER A POLICY OR CONTRACT ISSUED OR DELIVERED BY THE ENTITY, TO THE SAME EXTENT AS SERVICES RENDERED BY ANY OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER, FOR PATIENT ASSESSMENT REGARDING AND IN ADMINISTERING SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS OR MAINTENANCE INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That § 15–716 of the Insurance Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall apply to all policies and contracts issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2022.

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.