



Immunization Access


Senator Malcolm Augustine

SB 355

Education, Health, Environmental Affairs Committee

SB 355: Health Occupations - Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccinations

- Allows a Pharmacist to administer vaccines to a child, 9 years and above, **with parental consent** but without a prescription
- Currently can do Flu and everything else with prescription without incident and reported to immunet
- Provides 1200 additional access points for our families
- Not about children who have a primary care physician its about those that don't
- Provides more depth to an existing line of business for our pharmacies who are vested in our neighborhoods and are hurting

A map of the United States with state boundaries visible. The state of Maryland is highlighted in a dark red color, while the rest of the map is in a light yellowish-tan color. The map is positioned in the background of the slide.

National Pharmacists Immunization Landscape for Minors v. Maryland Law

- 11 States do not have any age requirement for vaccinations
- 31 states authorize vaccinations for children and adolescents other than flu
- In 42 states, pharmacists are authorized to give children and adolescents vaccines other than flu
- MD Pharmacists can provide flu vaccines to 9 y.o. and above, but Maryland law currently requires a prescription for any other vaccines for 11-17 y.o.

Vaccination Rates Can be Improved Through Access

*Data from AMA Interim Meeting Report of the Council on Science and Public Health on the “Role of Pharmacists in Improving immunization Rates”

- Pharmacists can complement the work of practitioners to increase vaccine coverage rates by practicing at the top of their licenses.
- Each year about 42,000 adults and 300 children in the United States die of vaccine preventable diseases.
- Only 20-30% of internists and family physicians stock all 11 CDC recommended vaccinations.
- More expensive vaccinations such as hepatitis B and catch up vaccinations such as HPV, MMR and varicella are less likely to be stocked.

Pharmacists Have a Proven Track Record of Safely Providing Vaccines to Patients in Maryland



MD Pharmacists have been safely providing vaccines:

- 18+ y.o. with CDC vaccines since 2006
- Other vaccines to minors with an rx since 2011
- In 2017, pharmacies provided more than 266,000 vaccines to patients in MD -- and that's only counting flu shots – without any major reportable incidents

Built-in Safety, Consent and Recordkeeping Measures



Registration



BOP, BOM, BON Approved Protocols

1. Identity and license number of pharmacist
2. Vaccine specific guidelines to administer (checklist for precautions, side effects and contraindications)



Patient Information on vaccine provided and consent must be given by patient or patients' guardian if a minor



Assessment form for patient info



3 types of recordkeeping required by law

1. One documented attempt to directly notify patient PCP physician (if patient has one)
2. Pharmacy must maintain record for 5 years
3. Immunet – MD's state vaccine database; all providers required to report all vaccines

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)-Educating Caregivers PRIOR to immunization



All vaccine providers, public or private, are required by the National Vaccine Childhood Injury Act (NCVIA – [42 U.S.C. § 300aa-26 pdf icon\[2 pages\]external icon](#)) to give the appropriate VIS to the patient (or parent or legal representative) prior to every dose of specific vaccines.



The appropriate VIS must be given **prior** to the vaccination, and must be given prior to **each dose** of a multi-dose series. It must be given **regardless of the age** of the recipient.

ACCESS ACCESS ACCESS



This bill does not touch parental consent and is strictly about increasing access.



Each year thousands of Maryland students are threatened with banning from school due to lack of immunizations. School systems spend money and families forego money going to “Free Clinics.” Mass immunization clinics that may not fit into their schedules.



This bill will provide these families with over 1200 additional locations they can visit ANYTIME to fulfill immunization requirements for school.



Additionally, most travel immunizations are not carried by physicians and for immigrant families needing these immunizations to travel, they would have to go to a doctor or an ultra expensive travel immunization clinic to receive necessary vaccinations. Ex. Yellow Fever, Hepatitis A and B, Malaria, etc.