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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Amendment to SB 84:  
Pharmacists – Administration of Self-Administered Medications  
and Maintenance Injectable Medications**

**Senator Clarence Lam**

**What Amendment to SB 84 Does**

- This amendment would add language stating that maintenance injectable medications include non-vaccine injectable antibiotics to treat sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- This would authorize pharmacists to administer injectable antibiotics for the treatment of STIs including gonorrhea and syphilis.
- Injectable antibiotics are the CDC-recommended first-line treatment for many STIs.

**Why Amendment to SB 84 is Needed**

- Maryland has seen dramatic increases in STIs (including gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia) over the past decade. From 2010 to 2019, Maryland experienced a 153% increase in syphilis infections.
- Rates of congenital syphilis (syphilis passed to a fetus or baby during pregnancy or birth) have also increased in recent years, with a 84% increase in Maryland from 2014 to 2018.
- Utilizing oral antibiotic therapies for STIs (instead of CDC-recommended injectable antibiotics) can increase the risk of treatment failure and foster the development of multi-drug resistant gonorrhea.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly disrupted treatment opportunities for STIs in Maryland. The CDC has recommended pharmacy-based injectable antibiotic treatment for STIs during Covid-19, but this is currently illegal under Maryland's laws.

- Without treatment, STIs can lead to serious health issues including fetal death or disability (syphilis), female infertility (chlamydia and gonorrhea), and heart disease or dementia (syphilis).

### **Current Injectable Antibiotics Laws**

- As of 2019, 29 states allow pharmacists to administer non-vaccine injectables without restrictions.
- Under the Code of Maryland Regulations, pharmacists administering vaccines are required to follow detailed safety protocols, including assessment of contraindications, assessment of dose and route, and procedures for handling adverse reactions. Similar protocols could be created to ensure the effective and safe provision of injectable antibiotics for the treatment of STIs.
- This amendment is supported by public health specialists, infectious disease specialists, primary care providers, and pharmacists from the University of Maryland Medical System, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Johns Hopkins Home Care Group.
  - Testimony requesting this amendment was submitted at the bill hearing and can be found [here](#) and [here](#)