

Expanding Immunization Access to Iowans

Iowa's Pharmacists are Ready to Step Up

Overview

- Over the last two decades, the role of pharmacists in immunization delivery has expanded significantly.¹ All 50 states, the District of Columbia (DC), and Puerto Rico allow for pharmacist-provided immunizations.² The pharmacy profession has been recognized by the CDC for the impact it has had on increasing immunization rates necessary to combating vaccine-preventable diseases.³
- Currently, Iowa's law allows for a pharmacist to administer immunizations and vaccines only through a local protocol or pursuant to a valid prescription. Further restrictions only allow pharmacists to vaccinate for influenza and other public health emergencies to ages six and older. Other immunizations and vaccines included in the CDC guidelines can only be administered to ages 18 and older.
- The proposed bill would remove the need for a local protocol or prescription, allowing pharmacists to independently prescribe and administer the flu vaccine and other public health emergency vaccines to any person six months or older, as well as any other CDC recommended vaccine or immunization to any person age eleven or older.

Other State Approaches

- Although Iowa was the first to allow pharmacist immunization, many other states have surpassed Iowa in expanding pharmacist immunization and vaccination
- 16 states allow for a pharmacist to administer a flu vaccine at any age through statewide protocols or prescriptive authority.
- A growing number of states including Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and New Mexico allow pharmacists to administer all CDC recommended vaccines through statewide protocols or prescriptive authority. Furthermore, all of these states allow CDC recommended vaccines to be administered independently by pharmacists to persons below the age of 11.⁴

Proposed Law

- Pharmacists who operate under the independent model of vaccine administration, meaning they do not need a prescription or local protocol, more efficiently serve a larger population than their counterparts who must follow the more restrictive models. Independent pharmacist models remove the time-consuming barrier of obtaining a physician prescription or practicing under a site-specific protocol and improve access to necessary health care.⁵
- Expanding pharmacists' ability to provide immunizations and vaccines is a safe and proven method for increasing access to vital public health services and improving patient care.
- Pharmacists are required to report administered vaccines to the Iowa Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS).

¹Gabenstein JD. Pharmacists and immunization: increasing involvement over a century. *Pharm Hist.* 1999;41(4):137–152.

²Based upon American Pharmacists Association (APhA)/National Alliance of State Pharmacy Association Survey of State Immunization Laws/Rules. Pharmacist administered vaccines. APhA website.

³Messonnier N. American Pharmacists Association website. media.pharmacist.com/documents/Dear_Pharmacist_letter_9-2016.pdf. Published September 26, 2016. Accessed February 4, 2017.

⁴Based upon American Pharmacists Association (APhA)/National Alliance of State Pharmacy Association Survey of State Immunization Laws/Rules. Pharmacist administered vaccines. APhA website. pharmacist.com/sites/default/files/files/Slides%20on%20Pharmacist%20I%20Authority_July_2016%20v2mcr.pdf?dfptag=imz. Updated July 2016.

⁵Goad J. Pharmacist challenges in providing immunizations. National Foundation for Infectious Diseases blog. nfid.wordpress.com/2015/05/15/pharmacist-challenges-providing-immunizations/. Published May 15, 2015.



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