Chapter: New York City Society of Health-system Pharmacists

Topic: **Pharmacists’ involvement in pediatric vaccination.**

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Whereas, Increasing pediatric vaccination rates in order to prevent infectious diseases remains one of the main focuses of Healthy People 20301,

Whereas, During the pandemic years the overall vaccination rates declined, specifically, there is a disparity observed in vaccination rates in various sociodemographic groups (i.e., African American and Hispanic children, lower socioeconomic status, living in rural areas)2,

Whereas, Despite a return to in-person activities, pediatric vaccination coverage has not yet returned to pre pandemic rates3,

Whereas, In New York State, pharmacists must be registered and certified by the State Education Department to immunize by completing an approved immunization course within the past three years and be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or basic life support (BLS)4,

Whereas, Pharmacists in New York State (NYS) must report all immunizations administered to persons less than 19 years of age to the NYS Immunization Information System or to the City Immunization Registry for immunizations administered within NYC4,

Whereas, Pharmacists’ authority to vaccinate children varies widely based on individual state laws,

Whereas, New York remains among 9 states where pharmacists are not authorized to administer vaccines to individuals under 18 years of age outside of the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, with an exception of influenza vaccine that pharmacists are authorized to administer to patients 2 years of age or older5,

Whereas, The benefit of pharmacists to administer pediatric vaccines has been documented in multiple studies6,7,

Whereas, During the pandemic years the benefit of having pharmacists administer vaccines led to increased patient accessibility and convenience (i.e., extended hours, more locations) especially for patients in rural areas and lower socioeconomic communities8,

Whereas, Misinformation regarding immunizations, particularly those in the childhood schedule, is rampant and widespread,

Whereas, It has been demonstrated that pharmacists, who are trusted healthcare professionals, can increase vaccination rates while serving as educators and immunizers9; therefore be it

**Resolved That:**

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists supports increasing the authority of pharmacists with immunization privileges to vaccinate children with all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended routine childhood vaccines.

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