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# Permanently Authorizing Pharmacists to Perform CLIA-Waived Tests

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# Fact Sheet

# Who the bill applies to:

* Licensed Pharmacists

# What the bill does:

* Permanently authorizes pharmacists to perform simple non-invasive tests (e.g. point-of-care tests)
* Directs the Commissioner of Health to establish which CLIA-waived tests pharmacists may perform
* Strengthens physician-pharmacist collaboration by establishing communication protocols for test results

# Why this legislation is needed:

* Many New Yorkers do not get screened for common disease states
* Access to simple testing can lower healthcare costs, reduce inappropriate antimicrobial use, and screen at-risk patients for physician referral for diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol. It also avoids patients needing to seek higher level services, such as Emergency Room and Urgent Care visits
* During the height of the pandemic, the federal PREP act authorized pharmacists to perform point-of- care CLIA-waived tests to detect COVID-19, demonstrating the ease of access to the public
  + Pharmacies in New York have developed infrastructure to support testing of respiratory diseases
* When the state of emergency ends, the authorization ends. These services must be maintained
* Most states allow patients to receive this type of testing/screening by pharmacists and support physician- pharmacist collaboration on screening and referral. On average, ~20% of community pharmacies within a given state have a CLIA waiver and can perform these simple tests (range: 0-60%). In New York State, less than 0.5% of community pharmacies have such a waiver.

# Support:

* Strongly supported by the New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists, Pharmacist Society of the State of New York, Community Pharmacy Association, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

# References:

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