

## **The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists**

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### **Immunization Authority Expansion to all CDC-recommended Vaccines S5227 (May)/A6511 (Paulin)**

**Fact Sheet**  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### **Who the bill applies to:**

- Approximately 20,000 pharmacists in New York State – of which many are immunizers

#### **What the bill does:**

- Makes permanent the law which authorizes immunization by Pharmacist (enacted in 2008)
- Removes the requirement that the physician or nurse practitioner who issues a non-patient-specific order must be in the same of adjoining county as the Pharmacist who executes the order
- Replaces the list of specific vaccines (influenza, pneumococcal, acute herpes zoster, meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, COVID-19) with all CDC-recommended vaccines for adults. These are Hepatitis A and B, varicella, human papilloma virus and measles, mumps, and rubella.
  - **Hepatitis A: NYS is the only state** which does not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **Hepatitis B: NYS is the only state** which does not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **MMR: NYS/WV are the only states** which do not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **HPV: NYS/WV are the only states** which do not allow pharmacists to administer
  - **Varicella: NYS/NH are the only states** which do not allow pharmacists to administer

#### **Why this legislation is needed:**

- Current law sunsets July, 2022. Passage ensures any necessary regulations will be in place
- Improve prevention and reduce healthcare costs; helps reduce health disparities
- Advances the NYS Health Department Prevention Agenda 2013-2018 to decrease burden of vaccine-preventable diseases
- County rule in current law is restricting access to vaccines, in the areas (mostly upstate) with low adult immunization rates and which are considered medically underserved
- Helps reduce confusion among patients, providers, pharmacists regarding vaccine availability
- During the measles outbreak, pharmacists in NY were unable provide this vital immunization. Now pharmacists in NY have been given the authority to administer a vaccine for COVID-19 which has not yet been developed, but are still unable to administer current FDA-approved, CDC-recommended vaccines.

#### **Support:**

- New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists, Pharmacists Society of the State of New York, Community Pharmacy Association of New York, the New York Chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists