

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 19

(Senator Lam)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Pharmacists - Administration of Injectable Medications for Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections

This bill authorizes a pharmacist to administer an “injectable medication for treatment of a sexually transmitted infection” (a medication that is administered by injection other than intravenously, treats a sexually transmitted infection, and is not a vaccine) that is not a biological product. The bill generally applies current law provisions regarding maintenance injectable medication to injectable medication for treatment of a sexually transmitted infection. Regulations adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy for injectable medication for treatment of sexually transmitted infection must be the same as those for a maintenance injectable medication.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s change can be implemented with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual must be licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy to practice pharmacy in the State. The practice of pharmacy includes compounding, dispensing, or distributing prescription drugs or devices; monitoring prescriptions; providing information, explanation, and recommendations to patients and health care practitioners about the safe and effective use of prescription drugs or devices; providing drug therapy management;

prescribing and dispensing certain contraceptive medications and self-administered contraceptive devices; and administering vaccinations, self-administered drugs, or maintenance injectable medications to a patient in accordance with regulations adopted by the board.

Maintenance Injectable Medication

Pursuant to Chapters 757 and 758 of 2021 “maintenance injectable medication” means a medication that is administered by injection other than intravenously and treats a chronic need, condition, or disorder. Maintenance injectable medication includes a medication for the treatment of a psychiatric or substance use disorder, contraception, and vitamins.

A licensed pharmacist may administer a maintenance injectable medication that is not a biological product to a patient (1) that is prescribed by an authorized prescriber; (2) in accordance with a standing order issued by an authorized public health official; or (3) in accordance with a drug therapy management protocol. A pharmacist may not administer an initial dose of a maintenance injectable medication product without written approval from the prescriber.

Specified insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations, as well as Medicaid and the Maryland Children’s Health Program, must provide coverage for the administration of a self-administered medication or maintenance injectable medication rendered by a licensed pharmacist to the same extent as services rendered by any other licensed health care practitioner for patient assessment regarding and administration of self-administered or maintenance injectable medications.

By September 1, 2021, the State Board of Pharmacy, along with the State Board of Physicians and the State Board of Nursing, must adopt regulations establishing standard procedures (1) for notifying a patient about payment for services before the pharmacist administers a maintenance injectable medication; (2) that a pharmacist must use to administer a maintenance injectable medication; and (3) for communicating to the prescriber whether a medication was administered and relevant information about the patient’s condition.

Regulations establishing standard procedures for the administration of a maintenance injectable medication must require a pharmacist to (1) complete a board-approved training program (unless the pharmacist has received this training as part of the pharmacist’s formal educational training); (2) follow the standard procedures established by the board; (3) after administering a maintenance injectable medication, notify the prescriber, provide the patient with a written record, and record specified information in the patient’s health record; and (4) notify the patient of the need to attend any upcoming appointments the patient has scheduled with the prescriber.

Small Business Effect: Small business pharmacies may administer an injectable medication for treatment of a sexually transmitted infection that is not a biological product.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 229 (Delegate K. Young, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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