



REMOVING BARRIERS TO PHARMACY VACCINATION:

A Path to Better Health and Lower Health Care Costs

A [study](#) commissioned by the Global Healthy Living Foundation documents nine different regulatory paths states use when granting authority to pharmacists to immunize adult patients.

With proper authority, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can administer vaccines, offering a cost-effective and convenient alternative to physician offices for both patients and our health care system. **The various processes to grant pharmacists authority to immunize can create systematic complexities and unnecessary duplication that ultimately results in higher health care costs and delays in vaccine access.**

Regulatory Complexities Reduce Patient Access:

- + Some pathways may delay vaccine access in pharmacies by up to 18 months.
- + There are measurable direct costs borne by each pathway, with some costing the health care system more than others, and some resulting in increased costs for patients.
- + Some paths may also cause delays in receiving immunizations, as patients must find other access points.
- + Lack of state-wide protocols and reliance on physician-based protocols may reduce access at pharmacies.

Here's Why That Matters:

Pharmacists have a proven track record when it comes to vaccination.

- ✓ [Research](#) shows that immunization rates improve when pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are authorized to vaccinate adults and children.
- ✓ [Studies](#) also show that pharmacies have more locations and greater operating hours than physician practices in low-income communities, highlighting the critical function pharmacies play in expanding vaccination services in underserved communities that are overrepresented by ethnic and racial minority patients.

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, where authorized, can help achieve higher vaccination rates.

Recommendations:

With pharmacies playing a growing and crucial role in immunization, now is the time to consider ways to simplify the regulatory environment to ensure that pharmacists have the same ability to immunize as physicians.

By reducing the complexities around pharmacist vaccination, states can reduce the cost to the health care system and take a crucial step towards improving vaccination rates.

Read the full study: https://ghlf.org/issues/vaccinesremoving_barriers_to_pharmacy_vaccination/