



HOUSE BILL 388: Immunizing Pharmacists.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	January 7, 2020
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Theresa Matula Legislative Analyst
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-21		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-21 expands the vaccinations that may be administered by an immunizing pharmacist to allow: 1) persons age 18 and older to receive the Serogroup B meningococcal vaccines, the Human Papillomavirus vaccine, and the Hepatitis A vaccine; 2) children at least age 10 (previously age 14) to receive the influenza vaccine; and 3) children age 6 and up to age 10 to receive the influenza vaccine following a physical examination and prescription order initiated by a provider. A screening questionnaire and safety procedures will be developed for the vaccinations and submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services no later than September 15, 2019.*

The authority for immunizing pharmacists to administer additional vaccinations or immunizations became effective October 1, 2019, the remainder of the act became effective June 3, 2019.

BILL ANALYSIS: **Section 1** of the act amends the Pharmacy Practice Act, as it pertains to immunizing pharmacists (G.S. 90-85.15B), to expand the vaccinations or immunizations that may be administered by an immunizing pharmacist. The expanded vaccinations or immunizations that may be administered to persons at least 18 years of age include: Serogroup B meningococcal vaccines, Human Papillomavirus vaccine, and Hepatitis A vaccine. Currently, an immunizing pharmacist is allowed to administer the influenza vaccine to persons at least 14 years of age or older. The act would also allow an immunizing pharmacist to administer the influenza vaccine to persons 10 years of age or older and allow an immunizing pharmacist to administer an influenza vaccine to persons at least six (6) years of age with a specific prescription order initiated by a prescriber following a physical examination of the patient by the prescriber.

Section 2 requires a minimum standard screening questionnaire and safety procedures for written protocols for vaccinations or immunizations administered under G.S. 90-85.15B(b)(6)-(7). These will be developed by representatives of the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, the North Carolina Medical Society, the North Carolina Pediatric Society, the North Carolina Association of Community Pharmacists, North Carolina Association of Pharmacists, and the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association. The questionnaire and recommended standards must be submitted to the North Carolina Board of Medicine, the North Carolina Board of Nursing, the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before August 1, 2019. In the event that the questionnaire and recommended standards are not submitted by August 1, 2019, the Immunization Branch of the North Carolina Division of Public Health shall develop the questionnaire and recommended standards and submit them to the entities above by September 15, 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 expanding the vaccinations or immunizations that may be administered by an immunizing pharmacist became effective October 1, 2019, and the remainder of the act became effective June 3, 2019.

BACKGROUND: The information in this section is provided by the Centers for Disease Control.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

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- Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB) - Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by a type of bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*. It can lead to meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and infections of the blood. There are at least 12 types of *N. meningitidis*, called “serogroups.” Serogroups A, B, C, W, and Y cause most meningococcal disease. [Serogroup B Meningococcal \(MenB\)](#) vaccines can help prevent meningococcal disease caused by serogroup B. Other meningococcal vaccines are recommended to help protect against serogroups A, C, W, and Y.
- Hepatitis A – Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. [Hepatitis A Vaccines](#) were recommended in the United States beginning in 1996. Since then, the number of cases reported each year in the U.S. has dropped from around 31,000 cases to fewer than 1,500 cases.
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) – HPV is a very common virus that can lead to cancer. Nearly 80 million people—about one in four—are currently infected with HPV in the United States. About 14 million people, including teens, become infected with HPV each year. Over 30,000 people in the United States each year are affected by a cancer caused by HPV infection. [Human Papillomavirus Vaccine](#) provides safe, effective, and lasting protection against the HPV infections that most commonly cause cancer.

The following are immunization schedules recommended by the CDC:

- [Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for ages 19 years or older](#)
- [2019 Recommended Vaccinations for Children \(7-18 Years old\)](#)
- [2019 Recommended Vaccinations for Infants and Children \(birth through 6 years\)](#)