



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 575: Pharmacists Improve Public Health Needs.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Health Care. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 5, 2021
Introduced by:	Sens. Burgin, Krawiec, Perry	Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates Committee Staff
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 575 would make changes to the pharmacy statutes to allow immunizing pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners greater authority to prescribe and dispense medications.

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, immunizing pharmacists can administer certain preventative vaccines, and clinical pharmacist practitioners can implement drug therapy for a patient after the patient has been diagnosed by a physician who has selected the appropriate drug.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1.(a) of the bill would make conforming changes to allow pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners to prescribe opioid antagonists.

Section 1.(b) of the bill would allow immunizing pharmacists to administer vaccinations approved by the Food and Drug Administration in accordance with protocols established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. It would also allow immunizing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense all of the following:

- Opioid antagonists.
- Tobacco cessation medications.
- Epinephrine and other anaphylaxis management medications.
- Medications for the management of hypoglycemia
- Short-acting bronchodilators.
- Hormonal contraceptives, provided the patient first completes the appropriate assessment.
- Prenatal vitamins.
- HIV pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis medications.
- Dietary fluoride supplements.
- Medications recommended by the Centers for Disease Control for individuals traveling outside the United States.

Immunizing pharmacists would have to maintain appropriate records, furnish those records to the patient and the patient's primary care physician, and comply with rules established by the North Carolina Medical Board and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy. Finally, immunizing pharmacists would be permitted to screen for and treat minor, nonchronic health conditions. Screening would be limited to tests waived

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under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, or applicable federal rules and regulations, and the immunizing pharmacists would have to keep and furnish the appropriate records.

Section 1.(c) of the bill would permit clinical pharmacist practitioners to prescribe and dispense the same list of drugs described above for immunizing pharmacists. The clinical pharmacist practitioners would have to comply with rules established by the North Carolina Medical Board and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.

Section 2 of the bill would require the North Carolina Medical Board and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy to establish rules for all of the following:

- Develop certification processes for immunizing pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners to administer the medications allowed under this act.
- Develop training for the minor, nonchronic disease screening, create a list of conditions eligible for treatment, and establish a formulary of drugs to treat those conditions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would be effective October 1, 2021, and apply to immunizing pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners after that date.