



SENATE BILL 335: Pharmacists/Test and Treat/Influenza & Strep.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 8, 2025
Introduced by:	Sens. Sawrey, Galey, Burgin	Prepared by:	Bill Patterson Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Third Edition		

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 335 would allow licensed pharmacists to test for and treat influenza and strep infections and would require insurers to cover healthcare services lawfully provided by pharmacists if those services would have been covered if provided by a different healthcare provider. It would also standardize the credentialing process of pharmacists by insurers and clarify that the coverage requirements for prescription drugs apply to third-party administrators and pharmacy benefits managers, as well as insurers.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, only immunizing pharmacists and clinical pharmacist practitioners may administer drugs or determine appropriate healthcare for a patient.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of Senate Bill 335 would allow licensed pharmacists to administer CLIA-waived tests¹ to diagnose individuals with influenza and treat those individuals. Pharmacists would not be allowed to treat any health condition with a controlled substance on Schedules I through IV.

Section 2 would require insurers would be required to cover healthcare services provided by pharmacists acting within their scope of practice if the services would have been covered if provided by another type of healthcare provider. Insurers that delegated credentialing of pharmacists to a contracted healthcare facility would have to accept the credentialing for all pharmacists employed by, or contracted with, the facility. All requirements relating to the coverage of prescription drugs that apply to insurers under Chapter 58 (Insurance) would also apply to third-party administrators and pharmacy benefits managers.

Section 3 would require the State Health Director to issue a standing order by October 1, 2025, authorizing a pharmacist to order and perform a CLIA-waived test and initiate treatment for influenza and streptococcus infections as provided in Section 1 of the bill, including protocols for testing and treatment that balance patient safety with insuring access to care provided by pharmacists.

Section 4 would require the North Carolina Medical Board and North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, in conjunction with the State health Director to adopt rules implementing the provisions in Sections 1 of the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Sections 1 and 2 of the bill would become effective October 1, 2025. Section 2 would apply to contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date. The remainder of the bill would be effective when it becomes law.

Jason Moran-Bates, counsel to the Senate Health Care Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.

¹ CLIA-waived tests are simple and low-risk diagnostic tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration as safe for use in non-laboratory settings and determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to qualify for a waiver under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988.

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