



Increase Access to Preventative Vaccines!

Eliminate the unnecessary age restriction on Pharmacists' provided Immunizations.

Issue Brief

Status: Senator Edwin Erickson has introduced a bill which would expand pharmacists' ability to provide immunizations to any age. Under current law, pharmacists are restricted to providing immunizations to anyone older than 18 years of age. The proposed legislation would remove any age limit.

Action Needed: PPA respectfully requests that all Senators support this bill as a measure that will improve access to preventative healthcare for all citizens of Pennsylvania. Similar legislation is already active in the House in the form of House Bill (HB) 2397.

Important Points:

- Since 2006 when the regulations were finalized, nearly 2,000 pharmacists have acquired an immunization license in Pennsylvania.
- There is a rigorous training program, which includes individual study and live hands-on training and demonstration of technique, which must be successfully completed in order to receive the license.
- Pharmacists must maintain a current CPR certificate.
- Pharmacists may only provide immunizations under a prescription or through a standing protocol established under the auspices of a physician. A physician would still make the decision to expand the protocol to a younger age.
- Pharmacists provided approximately 275,000 vaccines in 2009 in Pennsylvania.
- Getting a vaccine at your community pharmacy is a safe, easy, and effective way to get your immunizations.
- Because of the age restriction, many pharmacists could not help as much with the distribution of H1N1 this past year and also with Gardasil, or other HPV vaccines.
- Pharmacists can be a significant factor in boosting Pennsylvania's immunization rates.



Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

508 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-234-6151 Fax: 717-236-1618

Email: ppa@papharmacists.com

www.papharmacists.com