

TO: Kansas State Legislators

FROM: Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy (KCHP)

DATE: February 1, 2019

RE: **Comments on Proposed Medication Administration Services Legislation**

Dear Kansas State Legislators:

The Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy has solicited comments from its members regarding the proposed legislation to support pharmacists in medication administration services. The comments align with our mission: to [advance] public health by promoting the safe and appropriate use of medications through advocacy and education. The summary of the comments as supported by the KCHP Board of Directors is as follows:

Allowing pharmacists to administer medications previously prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner will increase the likelihood of patients taking the right medications at the right time and in the right dosage. Medication administration by pharmacists would improve access to care, allowing patients more options to receive treatment and improve adherence in a safe and supportive environment. Improved access is an important factor in improving health and well-being, and the addition of clinical options such as the involvement of pharmacists in providing proper administration would advance public health for Kansans. Pharmacists are trained in the administration of certain medications and are fully capable of providing this patient support function within their pharmacies.

Kansas is not novel in pursuing legislation supporting the pharmacist role in administering medications. Forty states have already passed similar legislation.

KCHP represents all pharmacy across health-systems, which include not only hospitals, but ambulatory care and retail settings.

In many of our rural settings, pharmacists are equipped to administer medications in a more timely and local setting than the closest hospital or health system which may be hours away. Assisting patients with injections, inhalers, and other potentially “tricky” administrations improves patient care and appropriate medication delivery.

In the hospital and ambulatory setting, penicillin skin testing can be completed by a pharmacist, saving the patient from risk of antibiotic resistance, an upcoming public health issue; as well as saving the patient and organization from expensive, unnecessary antibiotics.

We support the Kansas Pharmacists Association and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores in working with the Kansas Legislature to secure statutory authority that would allow pharmacists in the state to administer medications. Under the presumption that these medications would still be required to be prescribed by a licensed independent practitioner, they then could be administered by pharmacists. It is recommended that the Kansas Board of Pharmacy work closely with Kansas Pharmacists to develop

state regulations to support training expectations and requirements related to pharmacists administering medications.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Katherine Miller, PharmD, Director of Government Affairs, KCHP

Christina Crowley, PharmD, President, KCHP