

Chapter 738

(House Bill 1315)

AN ACT concerning

~~Health Insurance— Vaccinations by Pharmacists and Health Insurance~~
~~Coverage for Child Wellness Services— Immunizations~~

FOR the purpose of altering the vaccinations that a pharmacist may administer, subject to certain requirements, to an individual of at least a certain age; altering the vaccinations included in the minimum package of child wellness services for which certain health insurers and nonprofit health service plans are required to provide coverage; and generally relating to ~~health insurance coverage for child wellness services~~ immunizations.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 12–508

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Insurance

Section 15–817(a), (b), and (f)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Insurance

Section 15–817(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Insurance

Section 15–817(g)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

12–508.

(a) (1) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a pharmacist may order and administer a vaccination to an individual who is at least 3 years old if:

(i) The vaccine is:

1. An influenza vaccine;
2. A COVID–19 vaccine; or
3. Used in response to a public health emergency;

(ii) The pharmacist has completed a practical training program of at least 20 hours that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and includes:

1. Hands–on injection techniques;
2. Clinical evaluation of indications and contraindications of vaccines; and
3. The recognition and treatment of emergency reactions to vaccines;

(iii) The pharmacist has a current certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation;

(iv) The pharmacist has completed a minimum of 2 hours of continuing pharmaceutical education related to immunizations that is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as part of the license renewal requirements under § 12–309 of this title;

(v) The pharmacist complies with the record–keeping and reporting requirements in paragraph (5) of this subsection and any corresponding regulations adopted by the Board; and

(vi) If the vaccination is administered to an individual under the age of 18 years, the pharmacist informs the child vaccination patient and adult caregiver who is accompanying the child of the importance of well–child visits with a pediatric primary care provider and refers the patient to a pediatric primary care provider when appropriate.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a pharmacist who has met the requirement of paragraph (1)(i) through (vi) of this subsection may administer to an individual who is at least 7 years old a vaccination that is:

(i) Recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; or

(ii) Approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, a pharmacist who has met the requirement of paragraph (1)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this subsection may administer to an adult a vaccination that is recommended in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Health Information for International Travel.

(4) (I) A pharmacist shall administer a vaccination under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection under a written protocol that:

[(i)] 1. Is vaccine specific; and

[(ii)] 2. Meets criteria established by the Department, in consultation with the Board, the Board of Physicians, and the Board of Nursing, in regulation.

(II) THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES CITED IN THIS SECTION REFER TO FEDERAL STATUTES, RULES, AND GUIDANCE IN EFFECT:

1. ON DECEMBER 31, 2024; OR

2. AT A LATER DATE TO ACCOUNT FOR ANY NEW VACCINES RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2024.

(5) A pharmacist shall:

(i) Report all vaccinations administered by the pharmacist to the ImmuNet Program established under § 18-109 of the Health – General Article;

(ii) If the vaccination has been administered in accordance with a prescription, document at least one effort to inform the individual's authorized prescriber that the vaccination has been administered; and

(iii) Except for an influenza vaccination administered under paragraph (1) of this subsection, if the authorized prescriber is not the individual's primary care provider or if the vaccination has not been administered in accordance with a prescription, document at least one effort to inform the individual's primary care provider or other usual source of care that the vaccination has been administered.

(b) The Board shall:

(1) Set reasonable fees for the administration of vaccinations under this section; and

(2) Adopt regulations that require a pharmacist to submit a registration form to the Board that includes verification that the pharmacist:

(i) Has successfully completed a certification course approved by the Board that included instruction in the guidelines and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding vaccinations **IN EFFECT ON DECEMBER 31, 2024**; and

(ii) Is certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation and obtained the certification through in-person classroom instruction.

Article – Insurance

15–817.

(a) In this section, “child wellness services” means preventive activities designed to protect children from morbidity and mortality and promote child development.

(b) This section applies to each individual hospital or major medical insurance policy, group or blanket health insurance policy, and nonprofit health service plan that:

- (1) is delivered or issued for delivery in the State;
- (2) is written on an expense-incurred basis; and
- (3) provides coverage for a family member of the insured.

(c) (1) A policy or plan subject to this section shall include under the family member coverage a minimum package of child wellness services that are consistent with:

- (i) public health policy;
- (ii) professional standards; and
- (iii) scientific evidence of effectiveness.

(2) The minimum package of child wellness services shall cover at least:

(i) all visits for and costs of childhood and adolescent immunizations;

~~1.~~ recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;~~OR~~

~~2. RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS IN ITS CHILD AND ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE BY AGE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024;~~

(ii) visits for the collection of adequate samples, the first of which is to be collected before 2 weeks of age, for hereditary and metabolic newborn screening and follow-up between birth and 4 weeks of age;

(iii) universal hearing screening of newborns provided by a hospital before discharge;

(iv) all visits for and costs of age-appropriate screening tests for tuberculosis, anemia, lead toxicity, hearing, and vision as determined by the American Academy of Pediatrics;

(v) all visits for obesity evaluation and management;

(vi) all visits for and costs of developmental screening as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics;

(vii) a physical examination, developmental assessment, and parental anticipatory guidance services at each of the visits required under items (i), (ii), (iv), (v), and (vi) of this paragraph; and

(viii) any laboratory tests considered necessary by the physician as indicated by the services provided under items (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi), or (vii) of this paragraph.

(f) (1) A policy or plan subject to this section may not impose a deductible on the coverage required under this section.

(2) Each health insurance policy and certificate shall contain a notice of the prohibition established by paragraph (1) of this subsection in a form approved by the Commissioner.

(G) THE COMMISSIONER MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT SUBPARAGRAPH (C)(2)(I) OF THIS SECTION, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL STATUTES, RULES, AND GUIDANCE IN EFFECT:

(1) ON DECEMBER 31, 2024; OR

**(2) AT A LATER DATE TO ACCOUNT FOR ANY NEW VACCINES
RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2024.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2026.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~January 1, 2026~~ June 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.