

Chapter 371

(House Bill 1219)

AN ACT concerning

Pharmacists – Status as Health Care Providers and Study on Reimbursement

FOR the purpose of altering ~~a certain definitions~~ definition of “health care provider” to include pharmacists for the purposes of provisions of law related to ~~health care malpractice claims, the destruction of medical records, and HIV testing; requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children’s Health Program, and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for certain services rendered by a licensed pharmacist if the coverage is provided for the same services rendered by any other health care practitioner and the services are within the scope of practice of the licensed pharmacist~~ requiring the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to establish a workgroup to identify options and requirements necessary for the reimbursement of pharmacists and submit a report to certain committees on or before a certain date; and generally relating to pharmacists.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 3-2A-01(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 3-2A-01(f)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 4-403(a)(1)(xix) and (xx), ~~15-148(e), 18-336(a)(3), 18-337(a), and
18-338.2(a)(3)~~
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Health – General
Section 4-403(a)(1)(xxi)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – Health – General~~~~Section 18-336(a)(1) and 18-338.2(a)(1)~~~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~~~(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~~~Article – Insurance~~~~Section 15-716~~~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~~~(2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~

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

~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~~~§ 2A-01.~~

(a) ~~In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context of their use requires otherwise:~~

(f) (1) ~~“Health care provider” means a hospital, a related institution as defined in § 19-301 of the Health – General Article, a medical day care center, a hospice care program, an assisted living program, a freestanding ambulatory care facility as defined in § 19-3B-01 of the Health – General Article, a physician, an osteopath, an optometrist, a chiropractor, a registered or licensed practical nurse, a dentist, a podiatrist, a psychologist, a licensed certified social worker clinical, [and] a physical therapist, AND A PHARMACIST, licensed or authorized to provide one or more health care services in Maryland.~~

Article – Health – General

4-403.

(a) (1) In this section, a “health care provider” means:

(xix) A social worker; [and]

(xx) A speech–language pathologist; AND

(XXI) A PHARMACIST.

~~15-148.~~

(e) ~~The Program and the Maryland Children’s Health Program shall provide coverage for services[, to the same extent as services rendered by any other licensed health~~

~~care practitioner,] rendered to an enrollee by a licensed pharmacist [under] IN ANY SETTING IF:~~

~~[(1) § 12-509 of the Health Occupations Article in administering self-administered medications or maintenance injectable medications; or~~

~~(2) § 12-511 of the Health Occupations Article in screening an enrollee and prescribing contraceptives for the enrollee.]~~

~~(1) THE PROGRAM AND MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR THE SAME SERVICES RENDERED BY ANY OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER; AND~~

~~(2) THE SERVICES ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF THE LICENSED PHARMACIST.~~

~~18-336.~~

~~(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(3) "Health care provider" means a physician, nurse, PHARMACIST, or designee of a health care facility.~~

~~18-337.~~

~~(a) In this section, "health care provider" means a physician, a physician's designee, A PHARMACIST, or a designee of a health care facility licensed or otherwise authorized to provide health care services.~~

~~18-338.2.~~

~~(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(3) "Health care provider" means a physician, nurse, licensed direct entry midwife, PHARMACIST, or designee of a health care facility.~~

~~Article Insurance~~

~~15-716.~~

~~(a) This section applies to individual, group, or blanket health insurance policies and contracts delivered or issued for delivery in the State by insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations [that provide coverage for patient assessment regarding, and administration of, self-administered medications and maintenance injectable medications].~~

~~(b) An entity subject to this section shall provide coverage for services rendered IN ANY SETTING by a licensed pharmacist [under § 12-509 of the Health Occupations Article] to an individual who is covered under a policy or contract issued or delivered by the entity, [to the same extent as] IF:~~

~~(1) COVERAGE IS PROVIDED UNDER THE POLICY OR CONTRACT FOR THE SAME services rendered by any other licensed health care practitioner[, for patient assessment regarding and in administering self-administered medications or maintenance injectable medications]; AND~~

~~(2) THE SERVICES ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF THE LICENSED PHARMACIST.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, to implement § 15-148(c) of the Health General Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, on or before January 1, 2023, the Department of Health shall apply for and obtain from the United States Department of Health and Human Services any necessary amendments to or waivers for the State Medical Assistance Program or the Maryland Children's Health Program.~~

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Insurance Commissioner shall:

(1) establish a workgroup with representatives of pharmacists, carriers, managed care organizations, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to identify options and requirements necessary for the reimbursement of pharmacists who provide medical services within their:

(i) scope of practice as provided for in Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article; and

(ii) work setting; and

(2) on or before December 31, 2022, report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the Commissioner's findings and recommendations.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.