



## Medication Administration & External Monitoring Device Placement

Senator Duckworth & Representative Morrison's legislation [HF 2768](#) / [SF 2678](#)

Pharmacists are the most accessible health professional Minnesotans see each month. Over the past two years, Minnesotans have become acutely aware of the value of their local community pharmacist, with over 3 million COVID-19 vaccine doses having been administered by Minnesota pharmacists, pharmacy technicians or pharmacy interns. Pharmacists provide critical health services to patients every day, and they are seeking to continue to provide these services long after the pandemic is over.



If enacted, Representative Morrison and Senator Duckworth's legislation ([HF 2768](#) / [SF 2678](#)) would provide patients across Minnesota with another option to access injection and monitoring device placement administration services. The bill would allow pharmacists to administer prescribed injectable medications through subcutaneous (SQ) or intramuscular (IM) routes and allow pharmacists to place external drug monitoring devices on

patients. Over 30 other states allow pharmacists to perform SQ and IM injections for patients, including all states bordering Minnesota. Many patients appreciate assistance in placing monitoring devices such as Dexcom and Freestyle Libre for diabetes.

Patients are experiencing issues accessing health care across Minnesota and this is true in terms of their injectable medications and related administration services, in some cases because more medications are now injectable products. They may need to schedule an appointment with their provider, pick the medication up from their local pharmacy then drive an hour or two to a clinic where the medication can be administered.

Pharmacies have proven to be the one health care access location that will not shut down. Whether it's administering injectable monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19 patients in St. Paul or monthly mental health injectable medications in Detroit Lakes or helping with multiple sclerosis patient injections in Worthington, pharmacists are now providing these important administration services. These situations span both rural and urban areas and a number of disease states. Examples include long-acting antipsychotics for patients with mental health conditions, Prolia for osteoporosis,

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Makena for women at risk of delivering preterm infants, and other medications used in oncology, osteoporosis, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, anticoagulation, hormone deficiency, and fertility among others.

When providing administration services, pharmacists follow the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP) Patient Care Process<sup>1</sup> (shown to the right), including collecting pertinent patient information, assessing this information, developing a patient-centered plan, providing communication among the care team, and participating in ongoing monitoring to evaluate efficacy and safety.



As part of this process, pharmacists meet with patients regularly to provide education and help patients manage all prescribed medications, support interventions that improve the quality of care, engage as part of the health care team, and ensure that patients are receiving the expected benefits from their treatment. Once a pharmacist administers a patient’s medication, the prescribing provider is informed of the administration. Taking a team care approach is beneficial for the patient, the provider and the entire health system. A pharmacist is often the health professional to recommend that a patient seek care from a physician, nurse, or other health professional. Visiting a pharmacy to have an injectable medication administered also does not include an “office visit.” In addition to convenience, this can be beneficial to payers as well.

Pharmacist administration can also assist patients who struggle with self injection by providing initial education and support on medication self-administration, ensuring appropriate follow-up to monitor proper technique, reporting any adverse events, and removing barriers to adherence. Participation in the placement of drug monitoring devices, according to a protocol or collaborative practice agreement, will also provide access and convenience for patients as well as additional beneficial services. Pharmacists offer knowledgeable, accessible, and personal care to patients, improving quality of care and patient experiences.

### Key Patient Health Care Benefits:

- Minnesota pharmacists can currently provide medication administration/injection services for first doses, emergency situations or when treating substance use disorders or mental illnesses.
- Patients who are unable to receive their medication injection conveniently are at risk of lower adherence, which results in lack of medication effectiveness and increased healthcare costs.
- There is a lack of access to care in rural Minnesota; pharmacists are one of the most accessible healthcare professionals and can support closing this gap.
- Benefits to patients include: increased access to care, improved medication adherence, increased quality of care, and lower healthcare costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners Patient Care Process  
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