

# Medicaid Coverage For Health Services Provided By Pharmacists

*Coverage promotes pharmacist involvement in patient care & supports the sustainability of Minnesota's pharmacies.*



## Minnesotans depend on health services at community pharmacies

This legislation aims to ensure that pharmacists are financially compensated for providing healthcare services to Medicaid (Medical Assistance) and MNCare patients, including chronic disease management, medication & vaccine injection administration, prescribing hormonal contraceptives, and conducting health screenings. This proposal focuses on expanding access to essential healthcare services by involving pharmacists in MA and MNCare patient care.

Currently Minnesota MA and MNCare are not reimbursing pharmacies for pharmacist health/medical benefit services provided to patients and authorized under their scope of practice (MN-151). For other providers in Minnesota—such as RNs, APRNs, NPs, MAs, PAs, chiropractors, and others—MA and MNCare reimbursement is tied to the healthcare services covered by physicians under MN-62D, 62A, and MN-256B.0625 & MN-256L.03. By adding “licensed pharmacists” to the list of covered providers under MA and MNCare, we can ensure that Minnesota pharmacists are compensated for the critical services they provide to Minnesota recipients.

This bill advocates for fair and adequate MA & MNCare coverage for pharmacy services, aiming to increase access to essential services for over 1.2 million Minnesota patients. Last year the Legislature worked with the Minnesota Pharmacy Alliance and Minnesota's health insurance payers to enact consensus legislation that provided coverage for pharmacist health services provided to commercially insured patients in Minnesota. This legislation aims to provide MA and MNCare patients with the same coverage.. MA & MNCare patients rely on community pharmacies for accessible, cost-effective healthcare services, and this legislation ensures that Minnesota pharmacies can continue offering a full range of healthcare services under their scope of practice.

According to a 2024 survey from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), 71% of Minnesota adults “support private and government insurers adequately paying pharmacists for testing and initiating treatment in states where pharmacists are authorized to do so.” (Morning Consult, Prepared for NACDS)

## Increase access to patient health services provided by a pharmacist

Just like any other healthcare provider delivering patient services in Minnesota, pharmacists should be reimbursed for their time, expertise, and service delivery from their public and individual market insurers. In addition to medication therapy management services, the clinical services that pharmacists provide to Medicaid patients include, but are not limited to:

- Patient education on vaccines, chronic disease, preventive care, and chronic disease management/education/monitoring
- Prescribing nicotine replacement therapy, opioid antagonists for at-risk patients & family members, and hormonal contraceptives
- Administration of vaccines & other prescribed injections, including long-acting antipsychotic medications
- Ordering and administering CLIA-waived tests (e.g., influenza, rapid strep tests)