DC Board of Pharmacy FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The District of Columbia Health Occupation Amendment Act has been revised to expand the scope of practice of pharmacists pursuant to legislation enacted July 19, 2024, See, D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.02(8). However, some of the new scope of practice functions cannot be performed until after the Board issues regulations. The purpose of this document is to clearly set forth which new functions pharmacists can currently perform, and which new functions cannot be performed until after the Board issues regulations.

1. Which functions are pharmacists currently allowed to perform?

- Interpretation and evaluation of prescription orders.
- Dispensing and labeling of drugs, devices, and biologicals.
- Compounding of drugs as authorized by federal and District law.
- Drug and device selection.
- Responsibility for advising and providing information, where regulated or otherwise necessary, concerning drugs, devices, and biologicals, and their therapeutic values, content, hazards, and uses in the treatment and prevention of disease.
- Responsibility for conducting drug-regimen reviews.
- Responsibility for the proper and safe storage and distribution of drugs, devices, and biologicals.
- *The order and administration of immunizations and vaccinations in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's published guidelines and recommended immunization schedules for adults aged 18 and older with valid identification, adolescents and children aged 3 through 17 with written informed parental consent or without consent if authorized by District law.
    - (*Note: The Board will promulgate regulations to repeal the current regulations that require a protocol and standing order, to address technician vaccinations, and to clarify order and administration of multi-dose vaccinations.)
        - While a pharmacist can order and administer, a pharmacist is not the prescriber, e.g. a pharmacist cannot administer a vaccination pursuant to another pharmacist's order.

- The administration of immunizations and vaccinations to any individual pursuant to a valid prescription when certified by the Board of Pharmacy to do so.

- Ordering, performing, and interpreting Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments-waived tests.

- The offering or performance of those acts, services, operations, and transactions necessary in the conduct, operation, management, and control of a pharmacy.

- *Initiating, modifying, or discontinuing a drug therapy in accordance with a duly executed collaborative practice agreement (with Physicians only).

- The maintenance of proper records.

- *Medication Therapy Management.
  - (*Note: The Board may promulgate regulations to address recordkeeping requirements.)

- Performing foot checks for patients with diabetes.

- Performing point-of-care testing for blood glucose.

- Providing diabetes education.

- Performing point-of-care testing and cholesterol monitoring.

- *Offering tobacco-cessation services.
  - Counseling services for tobacco-cession is permitted.
  - Pharmacists are not able to prescribe medications for tobacco-cessation at this time.
  - (*Note: The Board will promulgate regulations to address prescribing medications for tobacco-cessation.)

- Providing transition-of-care services.

- Conducting asthma control checks.

2. Which functions cannot be performed until after the Board issues regulations.

- Management of chronic conditions, including Type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension.

- Prescribing and dispensing of self-administered hormonal contraceptives when certified by the Board of Pharmacy to do so and in accordance with regulations issued by the Mayor.

- Administration of a prescribed drug, device, and biological in accordance with regulations issued by the Mayor.

- Initiating, modifying, or discontinuing a drug therapy in accordance with a duly executed collaborative practice agreement (with a profession other than physicians).

- Administering anticoagulation therapy.

- Screening for depression and other mental health conditions.

- Screening for sexually transmitted diseases.

- Extending prescriptions as medically necessary, excluding controlled substances or specialized medications.

- Initiation of Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for the prevention of HIV/AIDS pursuant to a protocol.