

HB 96

Allow Pharmacists To Administer Injectable Drugs

THIS BILL

Would add 'administer injectable drugs' to scope of practice for pharmacists in North Carolina.

FACTS

Except for approved immunizations, North Carolina is now one of three states (see map: NC, NY & RI) for which there is no statute allowing for medication administration by pharmacists.

Pharmacists are the medication experts among all of our healthcare professionals.

Pharmacists are educated and trained to teach and administer medications including different types of injectables, such as: subcutaneous (eg. insulin) and intramuscular (eg. COVID vaccine).

IMPORTANCE

There is a need for increased access to medication administration services for many types of medications, such as those used to treat osteoporosis, mental health, specialty medications, and supplements that must be provided by a health care professional.

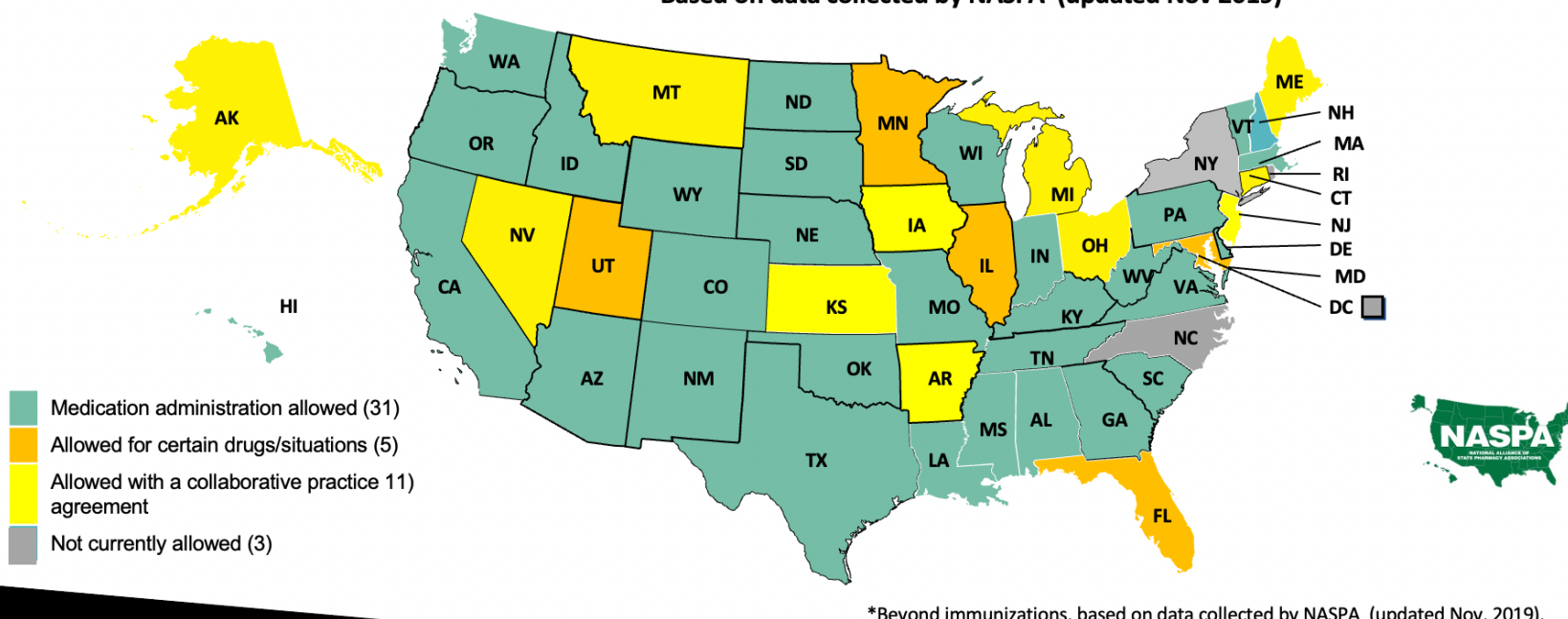
In addition, for self-administered injectables, due to health literacy, dexterity, fear of needles or other challenges, at times patients need a highly accessible health professional to administer the medication.

Without access to an alternative, patients who are unable to self-administer may be less adherent or not take their medications at all.

Pharmacists can help with access and address barriers that occur with limited clinic resources; the cost of maintaining drug inventory; patient transportation barriers; and reimbursement for drugs that must be dispensed by a pharmacy;

PHARMACIST AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER MEDICATIONS*

Based on data collected by NASPA (updated Nov 2019)



PHARMACIST ROLE

Pharmacist authority to administer medications will:

- Provide greater accessibility for patients since pharmacies are often closer to the patient's home, are designed for on-demand delivery of healthcare services, and typically have extended hours for care.
- For injections for behavioral health (eg.,schizophrenia and substance use disorders), administration in the community pharmacy can help remove stigma associated with having to go to a specific type of provider or clinic for the sole purpose of receiving their regular injection.

In 2017, a national stakeholders council, organized by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, called for all states to allow for pharmacists to administer medications pursuant to a prescription. HB 96 does just this, and works in concert with the prescriber, to authorize what the vast majority of states have already implemented.

PRACTICE SETTINGS

Pharmacists work in community pharmacies, clinics, home infusion, hospice and hospitals.

We are asking for North Carolina legislators to recognize the additional value that pharmacists can have in the care of North Carolinians, by supporting HB 96.

We need pharmacists to be able to help patients with a variety of different types of injections.

Casey Baldwin, PharmD is a home health pharmacist, with Resources of Seniors, Inc. in Wake County.

She sees elderly patients in their homes, and had this to say "we regularly have patients that struggle with medication administration and adherence, particularly when injectables are involved, such as insulin. H96 would give us another tool to help our patients".

Listen to Dr. Valerie Holmes

