

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1981

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Expands authority of pharmacy technician in administering drugs and vaccines and permits pharmacists and pharmacy interns, externs, and technicians to administer COVID-19 vaccine.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on October 28, 2024, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning pharmacists and pharmacy interns, externs, and
2 technicians, COVID-19 vaccines, and amending P.L.2003, c.280.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 24 of P.L.2003, c.280 (C.45:14-63) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 24. a. No pharmacist shall administer a prescription medication
10 directly to a patient without appropriate education **[or certification]**
11 and training, as determined by the board in accordance with the
12 requirements set forth in the rules jointly promulgated by the board
13 and the State Board of Medical Examiners. Such medication shall
14 only be for the treatment of a disease for which a nationally
15 certified program is in effect, or as determined by the board, and
16 only if utilized for the treatment of that disease for which the
17 medication is prescribed or indicated or for which the collaborative
18 drug therapy management permits.

19 b. (1) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
20 contrary, a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, **[or]** pharmacy extern, or
21 pharmacy technician may administer drugs to a patient 18 years of
22 age or older, provided the pharmacist, pharmacy intern, **[or]**
23 pharmacy extern, or pharmacy technician is appropriately educated
24 and qualified, as determined by the board in accordance with the
25 requirements set forth in the rules jointly promulgated by the board
26 and the State Board of Medical Examiners, and provided the drugs
27 are administered under any one of the following conditions:

28 (a) pursuant to a prescription by an authorized prescriber for a
29 vaccine and related emergency medications;

30 (b) in immunization programs implemented pursuant to an
31 authorized prescriber's standing order for the vaccine and related
32 emergency medications; or

33 (c) in immunization programs and programs sponsored by
34 governmental agencies that are not patient specific ¹; provided,
35 however, that a pharmacy technician shall not be authorized to
36 administer any medication pursuant to such programs unless the
37 medication is related to the immunization and necessary to respond
38 to an emergency¹.

39 (2) A pharmacist, pharmacy intern, **[or]** pharmacy extern, or
40 pharmacy technician may administer an influenza vaccine, a
41 COVID-19 vaccine, or both, to a patient who is **[seven]** five years
42 of age or older. For a patient who is under 18 years of age, a
43 pharmacist, pharmacy intern, **[or]** pharmacy extern, or pharmacy
44 technician shall not administer a vaccine except with the permission

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted October 28, 2024.

1 of the patient's parent or legal guardian. **For a patient who is**
2 under 10 years of age, a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, or pharmacy
3 extern shall not administer a vaccine unless pursuant to a
4 prescription by an authorized prescriber. Nothing in this subsection
5 shall be construed to require a patient 10 years of age or older to
6 obtain a prescription for an influenza vaccine.]

7 (3) A pharmacy intern **or** , pharmacy extern, or pharmacy
8 technician, as defined by regulation of the New Jersey State Board
9 of Pharmacy, may administer immunizations, as provided in this
10 subsection, to patients by injection or by other delivery method,
11 provided that the pharmacy intern **or** , pharmacy extern, or
12 pharmacy technician is acting under the direct supervision of a
13 licensed pharmacist who is pre-approved by the New Jersey State
14 Board of Pharmacy to administer vaccines and related emergency
15 medications, and who is in compliance with the rules jointly
16 promulgated by the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy and the
17 State Board of Medical Examiners.

18 c. ¹**For an immunization** All doses of a vaccine¹ administered to
19 a patient by a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, **or** pharmacy extern,
20 or pharmacy technician pursuant to this subsection shall be reported
21 ¹**by a supervising pharmacist**¹ to the New Jersey Immunization
22 Information System established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2004,
23 c.138 (C.26:4-134) as required pursuant to N.J.A.C.8:57-3.16, for
24 inclusion in the patient's registry.
25 (cf: P.L.2018, c.143, s.1)

26
27 ¹2. The New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy and the State
28 Board of Medical Examiners may adopt regulations necessary to
29 effectuate the purposes of this act, which regulations shall be
30 effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative
31 Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be
32 amended, adopted or readopted in accordance with the provisions of
33 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
34 seq.).¹

35
36 ¹**[2.] 3.**¹ This act shall take effect immediately.