



New York Must Empower Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccinations to Combat Healthcare Workforce Shortages

Medical Assistants are essential members of care teams.

- Medical Assistants (MAs) play a key role in the CHC care team. With versatile skills, they encompass both administrative and clinical roles to assist health care practitioners in outpatient or ambulatory care facilities. In fact, many MAs enroll in credentialed programs and sit for national certifying exams.
- MAs can serve as the first point of contact for patients, helping to create a welcoming environment while efficiently managing scheduling, billing, and other administrative tasks.
- Clinical support includes taking vital signs, preparing patients for examinations, and in many states, MAs are allowed to administer vaccinations, allowing healthcare practitioners to focus on patient care.
- MAs contribute to cost-effective care delivery that ultimately enhance healthcare quality.

Recognizing Medical Assistants to unlock their full potential.

- In New York, Medical Assistants are unlicensed persons and, as such, MAs are not allowed to vaccinate per current State Education Department (SED) guidance.
- By failing to recognize MAs for their comprehensive training, NY is underutilizing their valuable skill set. Consequently, preventing MAs from practicing their full range of competencies deprives healthcare teams of their potential contributions to improved patient care.
- In states throughout the country such as Connecticut, California, and Massachusetts, MAs are allowed to practice at the top of their training, including administering vaccines.

Allowing Medical Assistants to vaccinate can ease New York's healthcare workforce shortage.

- The demand for COVID, flu, RSV, and childhood vaccines has intensified the pressures on the CHC workforce. This need has surged with the arrival of asylum-seeking children, who require their complete vaccination series to enroll in public schools.
- Integrating MAs into existing vaccination efforts at CHCs and other healthcare providers can significantly enhance healthcare delivery. By allowing Medical Assistants to handle vaccinations, nurses and doctors can be freed up to focus on more complex cases and critical patient needs. This not only ensures that patients receive timely vaccinations, but also optimizes the use of limited healthcare resources.
- Many MAs are already trained through credentialed programs and/or certified through national certifying exams to administer vaccinations. Recognizing these MAs and allowing them to train to administer vaccines safely and effectively will make them an asset in expanding vaccination outreach and enhancing patient care in communities across New York.

Support S.9576 Skoufis/A.9802 Fahy¹ which would allow registered Medical Assistants to administer vaccinations under qualifying supervision.

¹ 2023-2024 Bill Numbers