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S.F. No. 1176 (as amended by the A-2 Author's Amendment) - Licensed pharmacists' authority to initiate, order and administer vaccines and certain medical and laboratory tests; coverage under medical assistance requirement

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Bill Overview

S.F. 1176, as amended, expands the ability of pharmacists to order and administer certain vaccines and lab tests. These include lab tests waived under specific federal law, as well as certain vaccines that may be provided to patients at young ages. The bill provides authority for pharmacists to delegate administration of vaccines to pharmacy technicians and interns, and establishes related requirements for such delegation. S.F. 1176 further requires medical assistance to cover certain vaccines initiated, ordered, or administered by a licensed pharmacist, and laboratory tests ordered and performed by a licensed pharmacist, at no less than the rate for which the same services are covered when provided by any other licensed practitioner.

Section Summaries

Section 1 (amends Minn. Stat. § 151.01, subd. 27) This section modifies the practice of pharmacy to allow a pharmacist to order and perform lab tests waived under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. § 263a *et seq.*). This federal law generally includes federal standards applicable to all U.S. facilities or sites that test human specimens for health assessment or to diagnose, prevent, or treat disease. This bill section also authorizes a pharmacist to collect specimens, interpret results, notify patients of results, and refer patients to other health care providers for follow up care and to initiate, modify, or discontinue drug therapy pursuant to a protocol or collaborative practice agreement. It further permits a pharmacist to delegate authority under clause (3) of the definition of “practice of pharmacy” (relating to the administration of lab tests) to a supervised pharmacy technician or intern.

This section also expands pharmacists' authority to administer, initiate, and order (i) influenza, COVID-19, and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines authorized or approved by the FDA to all eligible individuals ages three and older, and (ii) all other FDA-approved vaccines to patients ages 6 and older, according to the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. The new language permits a pharmacist to delegate vaccine administration authority to a pharmacy technician or intern if the pharmacy technician or intern meets listed requirements for training, assessment of immunization status, reporting, and supervision.

This section further requires that, if a patient is under 18 years old, requires the pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or intern administering the vaccine to inform the patient and any accompanying adult caregiver of the importance of a well-child visit with a primary care provider or pediatrician.

This section requires pharmacist supervision of a pharmacy technician administering vaccinations to be in-person, and establishes further requirements for pharmacy technicians performing such administrations.

Section 2 (adds Minn. Stat. § 256B.0625, subd. 13k) This section requires medical assistance to cover vaccines initiated, ordered, or administered by a licensed pharmacist, and laboratory tests ordered and performed by a licensed pharmacist, according to requirements of section 151.01, at no less than the rate for which the same services are covered when provided by any other licensed practitioner.

Effective Date. Makes this section effective January 1, 2025, or upon federal approval, whichever is later.