

February 4, 2019



Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of myself as a pharmacist that lives in Overland Park, I am writing this letter to encourage you to support HB 2082, which allows pharmacists to administer drugs by injection pursuant to a prescription order. Currently, in the state of Kansas, pharmacists are able to provide counseling to patients, and demonstrate the appropriate technique in utilizing a device or medication. However, the teaching demonstration during patient counseling is limited to training devices. Pharmacists are not allowed to administer any doses to the patient for training nor treatment purposes.

Our limited medication administration privileges often hinder us from providing appropriate care to patients. I have personally experienced this limitation when trying to provide care to my own patients in our community. One patient in particular comes to mind, who was prescribed Vitamin B12 intramuscular injections for a vitamin deficiency. The patient was in his late sixties, with vision problems and a light tremor. The idea of an injection was a frightening concept for him, as he did not have the experience with drawing up the medication or manipulating a needle. Unfortunately, with current policy on medication administration, my ability to take care of this patient was compromised. For the past two years, the patient has made weekly or bimonthly appointments with staff at the pharmacy, during which our team assists him with drawing up the correct dosage from the vial into his syringe, assisting him with the appropriate sanitation and preparation of the injection site, and talking through the proper injection technique. Although the technique for administration is the same as providing a flu shot, which pharmacists are legally allowed to provide, our team members could not take part in easing his discomfort by alleviating him of the burden of administering his Vitamin B12 doses.

This patient is just one example of the need for pharmacists to administer medications to members of our community. A nationwide study conducted in 2016 examining patient adherence to injectable medications in patients with diabetes, found that the most commonly reported barrier to maintaining the medication regimen was injection concerns¹. Injectable medications are widely utilized for anticoagulation, treatment of psychiatric disorders, cholesterol lowering and many more disease states. Apart from injectable medications, being able to administer medications to patients can help improve their understanding and technique of a variety of medications and devices, such as inhalers. A review of inhaler techniques by Giraud et al showed that meter dosed inhalers were misused by 71% of patients with asthma, leading to poor asthma control². Pharmacists can be a part of the solution, and are already legally allowed to administer medications in 40 other states.

Pharmacists are extensively trained at a doctoral level to serve as patient educators and medication use experts. We are readily accessible to the public, and the passing of this bill could help expand our abilities and utilize our skills to the benefit of the public. Medication safety and adherence are amongst our top priorities, so we truly appreciate your support of HB 2082, important legislation that will improve the lives of patients in Kansas.

Sincerely,

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¹ Spain, C. Victor et al. Self-reported Barriers to Adherence and Persistence to Treatment With Injectable Medications for Type 2 Diabetes. *Clinical Therapeutics*, 38(7) , 1653 - 1664.e

² V. Giraud, N. Roche. Misuse of corticosteroid metered-dose inhaler is associated with decreased asthma stability. *European Respiratory Journal* Feb 2002, 19 (2) 246-251