



Statement concerning

House Bill 5129 – An Act Concerning the Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists and Medical Assistants and the Listing of Certified Medical Assistants

**Public Health Committee
February 16, 2016**

This statement is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Medical Group Management Association concerning House Bill 5129 – An Act Concerning the Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists and Medical Assistants and the Listing of Certified Medical Assistants.

House Bill 5129 would allow medical assistants (MAs) to administer vaccines and allow pharmacists to administer the flu vaccine to children. We support MAs who are appropriately trained and accredited to administer vaccines and welcome their help in this area. MAs currently work under the direct supervision of an onsite physician or APRN and it is this supervision that is key to our support of this bill. We believe, that within appropriate boundaries and direction from a supervising physician, an MA can help physician offices to better serve its patients. As medical group practice managers we see firsthand on a daily basis the growing number of patients in need of care. In order to serve this growing pool of patients, we must begin to look to other medical professionals in our offices to provide certain services. Of course, the safety and well-being of the patient must come first so we can only support the delegation of certain services where we feel it is within the appropriate scope of training and education of those whom we are delegating to. Under the supervision of a physician or APRN, we believe that the administration of vaccines by MAs would be beneficial and safe for our patients. We do not, however, believe the same is true for pharmacists who are administering flu vaccines to children. We are concerned that children's healthcare would become too fragmented by having children receive the flu vaccine from pharmacists. If the legislature does approve the ability for pharmacists to administer the flu vaccine to children, pharmacists must be required to notify the patient's primary care physician, if they have one, or process the information through the vaccine database for the kids. Pharmacists also lack the supervision of a physician or an APRN when administering and we are concerned that should a child have an adverse reaction, there is no physician on site.

We respectfully request that before passing this bill, you carefully consider the potential problems with pharmacists administering flu vaccines to children.

**For more information, please contact:
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