



balls food stores

Testimony for House Bill 2082
Allowing pharmacists to administer drugs pursuant to a prescription order
House Health and Human Services Committee
By Amanda Applegate, President
Kansas Pharmacists Association, Topeka, Kansas
February 6, 2019

Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

I am Amanda Applegate, President of the Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA), and Pharmacy Clinical Services Coordinator at Balls Food Stores in Kansas City, KS. The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association that represents Kansas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists from all practice settings. Balls Food Stores is a Kansas owned supermarket chain with 13 pharmacies and 18 grocery stores in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of KPhA in support of House Bill 2082.

Kansas is currently one of only ten states in the nation that do not allow pharmacists to administer medications pursuant to a prescription order. In forty other states, pharmacists can assist their patients in safe medication usage by applying patches to the correct location and administering intramuscular injections. Many patients who take medication have challenges such as dexterity issues, vision problems, lack of flexibility, tremors, or fear that prevents them from using their medications as prescribed by their physicians. I have attached a letter from one of our pharmacies that has for years attempted to help a patient with the injection process but then must sit and observe their patient tremble as they inject themselves.

In my time as a clinical services coordinator at Balls Food Stores, I have received requests from my pharmacies and Kansas clinics, asking if their patients can receive injections such as long-acting antipsychotic medications at our pharmacies. In each instance, I have had to direct the patients across state line to one of our locations in Missouri, where they can have that medication administered at a pharmacy. Between several of my pharmacies, less than 10 miles determines whether a patient can receive access to assistance with medication administration.

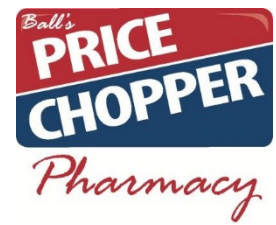
All doctor of pharmacy students graduating from accredited pharmacy schools are trained in the safe and effective administration of intramuscular injections. In volunteering at a free health clinic in Kansas City, KS, our student pharmacists get regular requests from their student physician counterparts to administer antibiotics for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Pharmacists and their students then often teach student physicians the technique of safe and effective intramuscular injections, since student physicians do not receive formal training in the process.

Prescription injectable and topical medications are currently administered in patient homes, by patients, families, and friends without training other than a demonstration by a pharmacist. Passing this bill would allow Kansans across the state expanded access to options for safe and effective medication use should they require additional assistance. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation. I strongly encourage your support in favor of the bill.

Amanda Applegate, PharmD, BCACP
President
Kansas Pharmacists Association

Pharmacy Clinical Services Coordinator
Balls Food Stores

January 26, 2019
cc: Rep. Jerry Stogsdill



Dear Chairwoman Landwehr,

As a pharmacist working at a community pharmacy in Overland Park, Kansas, I deeply enjoy daily interactions with patients and strive to provide the safest and most patient-centered service possible. However, at my Price Chopper pharmacy and in pharmacies throughout Kansas, I am limited in my ability to help patients utilize their medications most effectively by the current statutes preventing pharmacist medication administration. On behalf of Balls Food Stores – Hen House and Price Chopper Pharmacies in the Kansas City metropolitan area, I write this letter to encourage you to pass H.B. 2082. This bill would allow state-licensed pharmacists to directly administer medications to patients. As medication experts, pharmacists are well-trained in medication use and administration in dosage forms such as injections. Supporting this bill is a logical step forward for providing the best healthcare possible in our state.

I recently cared for a patient at my pharmacy who would have benefited from pharmacist medication administration. Through our interaction, I learned she had recently been prescribed rapid-acting insulin. This is a high-risk medication and can reduce blood sugar to life-threatening levels if administered incorrectly. Her doctor's office was either unable or unwilling to show this patient how to use her medication in a way that is safe and effective. The patient had not yet started her new insulin because she was unaware of how to use it. That day I verbally explained to the patient how to use her new medication, but I was prohibited from physically helping her give the first injection to ensure she understood how to inject safely.

This legislation would not only increase access to safe medication administration by a trained health care professional, but also decrease patient costs. A patient could receive medication administration from a pharmacist for free or at minimal cost compared to the financial burden of paying an office visit copay to see another health care provider for the same service. Medications such as insulin, long-acting antipsychotics, vitamin B12 injections, and more may be underused by patients unable to safely administer these medications due to barriers such as dexterity limitations, vision impairment, or apprehension of self-injection. By removing these barriers, pharmacist medication administration could improve adherence rates statewide. Pharmacist medication administration is already commonplace in 40 other states, including Missouri. At this time, I must direct patients across the state line for pharmacist assistance with medication administration. With 90% of Kansans living within two miles of a pharmacy, passing legislation allowing pharmacists to administer medications would increase critical access to a health care need and reduce burden on urgent care facilities and primary care clinics.

HB 2082 would directly improve patient outcomes by reducing harm caused by incorrect administrations, reducing healthcare costs to patients, and improving medication adherence. This bill would pave the way forward in allowing Kansans to receive the greatest benefit from their medications. I truly appreciate you doing your part to help pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Katie Dollar, PharmD

PGY-1 Community Pharmacy Resident
Balls Food Stores | Price Chopper Pharmacy
7000 W. 75th St, Overland Park, KS 66204

February 4, 2019
Cc: Representative David Benson



Dear Chairwoman Landwehr,

On behalf of myself, as a pharmacist that lives in Overland Park, I write this letter to encourage you to support HB2082. This bill would allow state-licensed pharmacists to administer injectable medications to patients pursuant to a prescription order. Currently, immunization-certified pharmacists in Kansas are trained to administer vaccines, but not medications, under protocol with a physician, allowing better access to patients who may otherwise not have been able to adhere to public health recommendations. There is a need for increased access to medication administration services for many types of medications and 90% of Kansas residents live within two miles of a pharmacy. In addition to medication expertise, I believe pharmacists in Kansas can alleviate many of the geographical barriers that challenge clinicians and patients if pharmacists are allowed to administer injectable medications to patients.

According to the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA), pharmacists across the country are able to provide medication administration services in 40 states. However, the lack of medication administration privileges given to pharmacists in the state of Kansas prevents us from providing appropriate care to our patients. Personally, I have experienced this barrier when attempting to assist one of my own patients in our community. This patient, a gentleman in his late sixties, was prescribed Vitamin B12 intramuscular injections by his physician for the treatment of a vitamin deficiency. Due to a light tremor, limited dexterity, vision problems, and a fear of needles, the idea of an injection was a terrifying concept for him. In addition, this patient lacked adequate experience with drawing up the medication and manipulating the needle. Unfortunately, due to the current policy in place on medication administration, my ability to provide optimal care to this patient remains limited. This patient continues to schedule monthly appointments with me at the pharmacy so I may assist him with drawing up the correct dosage from the vial into a syringe, appropriate sanitation and preparation of the injection site, and coaching of appropriate injection technique. While I have done my best to educate and instruct the patient throughout the process, I am unable to ease his discomfort by relieving him of the burden of self-administering the dose.

My patient serves as just one example to support the need for this bill in our community. Pharmacy-based medication administration services can improve public health by providing patient care, facilitating access to needed services, and enhancing collaboration with other health care providers. Patients who could benefit from medication administration services often encounter challenges, such as inability to coordinate scheduling with providers, missed medication doses, and limited knowledge of the medication or its administration. However, if pharmacists were able to administer medications, we could provide appropriate patient education, decrease the risk of harm caused by incorrect administration, and address barriers to adherence.

The goal of HB2082 is to expand access to medication administration services. As evidenced above, this would be beneficial not only to rural parts of the state, but, urban areas as well. Support of legislation to expand medication administration capabilities among pharmacists provides the opportunity to improve medication safety and adherence. I truly appreciate you doing your part to pass this important legislation that will positively impact the lives of patients in our community.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Seipel, PharmD