



## **New York Must Allow Medical Assistants to Vaccinate to Address Healthcare Workforce Shortages**

SFY 2024 – 2025

### **CHCANYS strongly supports allowing Medical Assistants to vaccinate.**

CHCANYS strongly recommends that physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants be allowed to assign and supervise Medical Assistants' (MAs) tasks related to immunizations in outpatient settings pursuant to training.

### **Who are Medical Assistants?**

Medical assistants play a key role in the CHC care team as they are trained in both administrative and clinical roles to assist health care practitioners in outpatient or ambulatory care facilities. Many MAs also enroll in credentialed programs and sit for national certifying exams.

### **Medical Assistants are underutilized in New York State.**

- As unlicensed persons, New York currently does not allow MAs to vaccinate per current State Education Department (SED) guidance. However, many are already trained to do so through nationally credentialed programs.
- 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 help alleviate current healthcare workforce shortages.**

- Demand for COVID, flu, RSV and childhood vaccines exacerbates existing pressures on CHC workforce. Demand for vaccines has risen with the COVID-19 pandemic and arrival of asylum seeker children that often need their full vaccination series to enter public school.
- Medical Assistants can be integrated into existing vaccination efforts at CHCs and other healthcare providers, freeing up nurses and doctors to address more complex cases.
- Allowing MAs to vaccinate will increase overall healthcare efficiency and expand access to care.

**Pass legislation allowing Medical Assistants to vaccinate under qualifying supervision.**