



Allow Medical Assistants to Vaccinate

Medical Assistants (MAs) are underutilized in New York State.

- MAs play a key role in care teams at community health centers (CHCs).
 - Trained in both administrative and clinical roles, MAs assist health care practitioners in outpatient or ambulatory care facilities.
- However, pursuant to State Education Department (SED) directives, New York currently does not allow MAs to vaccinate.
 - This is notwithstanding the fact that many are trained to do so as a result of completing nationally credentialed programs.
- Neighboring states (such as Connecticut and Massachusetts) formally recognize MAs and authorize them to provide a variety of health-related services, include administering vaccines.

Allowing Medical Assistants to vaccinate can help alleviate current healthcare workforce shortages.

- Seasonal demand for COVID, flu, RSV and childhood vaccines exacerbates existing pressures on CHC workforce.
- MAs 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.

Support proposed legislation allowing MAs to vaccinate.

CHCANYS strongly recommends that NYS enact legislation to allow MAs to vaccinate pursuant to training and under qualifying supervision. Currently introduced legislation that would achieve this includes:

- A.5460B (Paulin)/S.5340A (Stavisky)
- A.5541 (Hyndman)/S.5720 (Skoufis)
- S.7370 (Stavisky)