

**Project 7530 - Proposed**

**Board of Pharmacy**

**2023 pharmacists initiating treatment**

**18VAC110-21-46. Initiation of treatment by a pharmacist.**

A. Pursuant to § 54.1-3303.1 of the Code of Virginia, a pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the following drugs and devices to persons 18 years of age or older with whom the pharmacist has a bona fide pharmacist-patient relationship:

1. Naloxone or other opioid antagonist, including such controlled paraphernalia as defined in § 54.1-3466 of the Code of Virginia as may be necessary to administer such naloxone or other opioid antagonist;
2. Epinephrine;
3. Injectable or self-administered hormonal contraceptives, provided the patient completes an assessment consistent with the United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use;
4. Prenatal vitamins for which a prescription is required;
5. Dietary fluoride supplements, in accordance with recommendations of the American Dental Association for prescribing of such supplements for persons whose drinking water has a fluoride content below the concentration recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
6. Drugs and devices as defined in § 54.1-3401 of the Code of Virginia, controlled paraphernalia as defined in § 54.1-3466 of the Code of Virginia, and other supplies and equipment available over the counter covered by the patient's health carrier when the patient's out-of-pocket cost is lower than the out-of-pocket cost to purchase an over-the-

counter equivalent of the same drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment;

7. Vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and vaccines for COVID-19;

8. Tuberculin purified protein derivative for tuberculosis testing;

9. Controlled substances for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus, including controlled substances prescribed for pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis pursuant to guidelines and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

10. Nicotine replacement and other tobacco-cessation therapies, including controlled substances as defined in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), together with appropriate patient counseling; and

11. Tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses;

12. Controlled substances or devices for the initiation of treatment of the following diseases or conditions for which clinical decision making can be guided by a clinical test that is classified as waived under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, 42 USC § 263a:

a. Group A Streptococcus bacteria infection;

b. Influenza virus infection;

c. COVID-19 virus infection; and

d. Urinary tract infection.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 54.1-3303 of the Code of Virginia, a pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the following drugs and devices to persons three years of age or older:

1. Vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and vaccines for COVID-19; and
2. Tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses.

The provisions of this subsection will become effective upon expiration of the provisions of the federal Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 related to the vaccination and COVID-19 testing of minors.

C. Pharmacists who initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer a drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment pursuant to subsections A and B of this section shall:

1. Follow the statewide protocol adopted by the board for each drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment.
2. Notify the patient's primary health care provider that treatment has been initiated with such drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment or that such drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment have been dispensed or administered to the patient, provided that the patient consents to such notification. No pharmacist shall limit the ability of notification to be sent to the patient's primary care provider by requiring use of email that is secure or compliant with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 USC § 1320d et seq.) (HIPAA). If the patient does not have a primary health care provider, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding the benefits of establishing a relationship with a primary health care provider and, upon request, provide information regarding primary health care providers,

including federally qualified health centers, free clinics, or local health departments serving the area in which the patient is located. If the pharmacist is initiating treatment with, dispensing, or administering injectable or self-administered hormonal contraceptives, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding seeking preventative care, including (i) routine well-woman visits, (ii) testing for sexually transmitted infections, and (iii) pap smears. If the pharmacist is administering a vaccine pursuant to this section, the pharmacist shall report such administration to the Virginia Immunization Information System in accordance with the requirements of § 32.1-46.01 of the Code of Virginia.

3. Maintain a patient record for a minimum of six years following the last patient encounter with the following exceptions:

- a. Records that have previously been transferred to another practitioner or health care provider or provided to the patient or the patient's personal representative; or
- b. Records that are required by contractual obligation or federal law to be maintained for a longer period of time.

4. Perform the activities in a manner that protects patient confidentiality and complies with HIPAA.

5. Obtain a history from the patient, including questioning the patient for any known allergies, adverse reactions, contraindications, or health diagnoses or conditions that would be adverse to the initiation of treatment, dispensing, or administration.

6. If administering a vaccination to a minor pursuant to subdivision B 1 of this section, provide written notice to the minor's parent or guardian that the minor should visit a pediatrician annually.

D. A pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer drugs, devices, controlled paraphernalia, and other supplies and equipment pursuant to this section through telemedicine

services, as defined in § 38.2-3418.16 of the Code of Virginia, in compliance with requirements of § 54.1-3303 of the Code of Virginia and consistent with the applicable standard of care.