

HB2051, “An Act to increase access to immunizations”

Currently, Massachusetts prohibits certified medical assistants from administering vaccines like the flu shot, despite the increasing role that they play in the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective patient care. This legislation seeks to change that by authorizing medical assistants to administer immunizations when delegated by primary care providers. Doing so will allow primary care providers – particularly those practicing in community health centers – to more easily meet the demand for immunizations, and help patients to stay healthy and avoid costly hospital stays.

- Medical assistants are versatile and valuable additions to medical practices.
- With a new focus on team-based approaches to care, certified medical assistants are vital. The care team works together to anticipate the patient’s needs, communicate their findings with each other, and make sure no aspect of the patient’s health slips through the cracks.
- A team-based approach to care is intrinsic to the medical home model and population health management – strategies that are being widely deployed by providers to improve patient satisfaction and outcomes, and keep care affordable.
- Providers increasingly rely on them to deliver care more efficiently. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects it to be the fastest growing occupation for the 2002 to 2012 period.
- Certified medical assistants are well-trained in administering intramuscular and subcutaneous injections.
- This legislation would allow them to utilize their training, while under the supervision of a provider (a provider must always be present at the facility, though not necessarily present in the room when the immunization is administered).