

# Prep Act Expiry – POC Testing

Utah Board of Pharmacy Presentation

March 28, 2023

# PHE Expiring May 11, 2023

## PREP Act Expiring Oct 1, 2024

### FEDERAL PREP ACT ALLOWANCES FOR PHARMACY PERSONNEL

#### **Vaccination services** authorized by the PREP Act

- Pharmacists: order & administer COVID (3 yrs +); ACIP (3-18 yrs)
- Interns: administer COVID (3 yrs +); ACIP (3-18 yrs)
- Pharmacy Technicians: administer COVID (3 yrs +); ACIP (3-18 yrs); flu (adults)

#### **“Testing to treat “services** authorized by the PREP Act.

- Pharmacists: order and administer COVID tests; COVID therapeutics
- Interns: administer COVID tests
- Pharmacy Technicians: administer COVID tests

Pharmacists, as the nation’s most accessible healthcare provider, are uniquely situated to offer vaccinations, as well as efficient testing and immediate initiation of time-sensitive, outpatient medication for COVID-19 and other viruses (e.g., influenza, RSV). The federal authority for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to order and perform infectious disease testing, administer vaccines, and administer certain COVID-19 therapeutics depends on HHS’s amendments to the COVID-19 Prep Act Declarations. Unless the Administration takes steps to make these authorities permanent, patient access to these pharmacist services will end on October 1, 2024, taking critical public health infrastructure away from our nation’s patients.\* (NCPA 3-13-23)

# Prep Act

- Enabled pharmacy providers across the country to provide a broad array of immunizations and “test to treat” services during the public health emergency
- Provided increased access to healthcare services with extended pharmacy hours, and convenient locations (90% of Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy)
  - Pharmacies are located in many underserved communities; helping to address the nation’s healthcare disparities.
  - lack of access to healthcare leads to high-cost emergency room visits or delay in care.
- Pharmacies were able to support primary care providers during the pandemic
  - Addressing surge capacity limitations
  - Providing screening, referral, reporting

Pharmacies have played a vital role in connecting the broader public to essential healthcare services during the pandemic



# UT Pharmacy Practice Act section 57

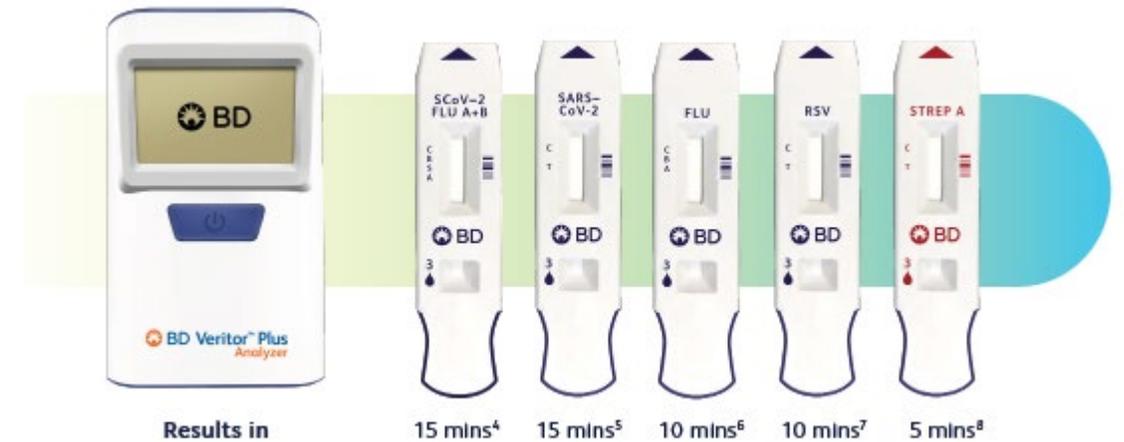
(57) "Practice of pharmacy" includes the following:

- (a) providing pharmaceutical care;
- (b) collaborative pharmacy practice in accordance with a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement;
- (c) compounding, packaging, labeling, dispensing, administering, and the coincident distribution of prescription drugs or devices, provided that the administration of a prescription drug or device is:
  - (i) pursuant to a lawful order of a practitioner when one is required by law; and
  - (ii) in accordance with written guidelines or protocols:
    - (A) established by the licensed facility in which the prescription drug or device is to be administered on an inpatient basis; or
    - (B) approved by the division, in collaboration with the board and, when appropriate, the Physicians Licensing Board, created in Section 58-67-201, if the prescription drug or device is to be administered on an outpatient basis solely by a licensed pharmacist;

# Requesting BOP approval

## CLIA WAIVED POC TESTS FOR THE FOLLOWING DISEASES:

- SARS-CoV-2
- Influenza
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- Group A Strep (Strep throat)



- Pharmacies have proven their ability to properly screen patients and administer point of care testing.
- The majority of pharmacies have CLIA waivers and are recognized by CMS as “limited labs” that can administer CLIA waived tests.
- Authorities granted under the PREP Act cemented Americans’ reliance on community pharmacies for immunization and “test to treat” services.
- Point of care testing in a pharmacy provides an accessible and affordable pathway for patients that might otherwise delay care.
- Point of care testing in a pharmacy provides patients, parents and caregivers the tools and answers to assist them in their personal healthcare management.
  - Referral
  - Treatment
  - Quarantine, when to return to work or school