

# Implementing SB159

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# Pucci's Pharmacy - Background

- Opened in 1930
- Previous owner began servicing PLWHIV in the 1980s
  - 2020 – 268 patients for HIV treatment, PrEP, & PEP
  - 2021 – 282 patients
  - 2022 – 303 patients
- Patients served for Rxs
  - 2020 – 5787
  - 2021 – 10541
  - 2022 – 11738
- 2019 – CLIA waiver obtained
  - Flu & Strep testing
  - COVID testing started in Oct 2020
  - HIV and HCV testing soon!

# Pucci's Pharmacy - Background

- January 2021 – One of the first non-chain pharmacy sites in California to vaccinate against COVID in collaboration with Public Health to provide mobile vaccinations
- 27,000+ COVID vaccines administered to date
- July 2022 – Contacted by Sacramento County Public Health to assist with MPOX vaccines
- 6,268 MPOX vaccines administered to date
- 2022 – Providing Apretude (HIV PrEP) and Cabenuva (HIV Treatment) injectables

# SB 159 - Background

- Authorizes pharmacist to initiate and furnish HIV PrEP and HIV PEP
- Expands Medi-Cal schedule of benefits to include HIV PrEP and PEP as pharmacist services
- Prohibits plans and insurers from requiring step therapy or prior authorization to antiretroviral drugs
- Prohibits plans and insurers from prohibiting, or allowing a pharmacy benefit manager to prohibit, a pharmacy provider from providing HIV PrEP and PEP

# SB 159 – Pharmacist Requirements

- Pharmacists must complete training for competency
- HIV Testing
- HIV Counseling
- Prescribing
- Dispensing
- PrEP/PEP Counseling
- Notify PCP

# SB 159 for PrEP

- For PrEP, ensure patient is HIV negative - 4052.02 (e) (1)
- Burden on the patient to prove they are “HIV negative, as documented by a negative HIV test result obtained within the previous seven days from an HIV antigen/antibody test or antibody-only test from a rapid, point-of-care fingerstick blood test approved by the FDA”
- If patient does not provide evidence of a negative HIV test... “the pharmacist shall order an HIV test”.

# SB159 for PEP

- For PEP, ensure patient is HIV negative [4053.03 (e) (2)]
- Burden on the pharmacist to provide HIV testing that is classified as waived under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 263a) or determines the patient is willing to undergo HIV testing consistent with CDC guidelines.
- If the patient refuses to undergo HIV testing but is otherwise eligible for postexposure prophylaxis under this section, the pharmacist may furnish postexposure prophylaxis.

# SB159 Coverage

- Medicaid patients covered by Medi-Cal
- Uninsured patients covered by PrEP-AP
  - Pharmacy must contract separately with CDPH to bill PrEP-AP
- Largest percentage of Californians are covered by commercial plans
  - No requirement for these plans to cover pharmacist provided HIV testing OR to recognize pharmacist as a provider for non-dispensing related services
- Sac County Public Health has offered to share their HIV tests
  - Still would lack funding for pharmacist time spent providing test, counseling, etc.
  - Lots of paperwork to be completed for their program
  - Not viable for most pharmacies



# Current State

- Referring patients to willing providers for testing & they prescribe
- LGBT Center tests and refers to telehealth provider
  - Some patients are stigmatized by going to “LGBT” center or an “HIV/AIDS” center
- Pucci’s dispenses HIV PrEP, PEP, and treatment
- Referring out often causes delay in start
  - Patient may get infected during this window
  - Patient perception is negative of the overall health system
  - Not viable for pharmacies who don’t have a willing referral destination

# Remove Barriers to Care

- Pharmacists to provide testing upon request
- Mandate that pharmacies are to be reimbursed by all health plans for HIV testing and all related professional services
- Remove the 60-day limitation of initiating and providing PrEP once in a two-year timeframe