



We ask Policymakers to please support the community and long-term care patients of your neighborhood independent pharmacy:

Support Competition, Consumer Choice and Integrity in Pharmacy Benefits

Policymakers should consider legislation that would result in:

- 1) greater choice of pharmacies for consumers;
- 2) greater transparency to Medicare and for pharmacies regarding generic drug payment rates;
- 3) fair standards for PBM pharmacy audits to assure that any recoveries are returned to Medicare and not kept by the PBMs.

Expand Role of Pharmacists in Patient Care

Pharmacists help improve prescription medication use and improve public health by providing counseling, medication therapy management programs, and immunizations. They can also improve quality and reduce medication costs through participation in new patient care delivery models such as Accountable Care Organizations, transition of care models, and chronic care management programs. Policymakers should consider expanding these pharmacist patient care services by designating pharmacists as Medicare Part B providers.

Support Medicare Beneficiaries Access to DTS from Small Pharmacies

New cuts to pharmacy payment rates for diabetes testing supplies (DTS) will likely force most small and long-term care pharmacies out of the program, meaning that Medicare beneficiaries that want to use their neighborhood pharmacy will have to use mail order or travel long distances to obtain these vital products. Members of Congress in both chambers and both parties should correct this provision before patients lose access to their pharmacy of choice.

Protect Traditional Pharmacy Compounding

Pharmacy compounding of medications is an important part of medical care that allows for the dispensing of custom-made medications based on a prescription for a particular patient. We believe large manufacturers of compounded products should be regulated at the federal level. We will work to protect everyday independent pharmacy compounding based on patient needs and prescriptions.

Preserve Military Families' Access to Community Pharmacies, Oppose Mail Order

Oppose efforts to unfairly force our servicemen and women, military retirees and their families to use mail order to fill their prescriptions in TRICARE. TRICARE's prescription drug benefit's costs could be lowered through increasing the use of generic medicines, while maintaining access to the community pharmacies that so many TRICARE beneficiaries depend on.

Join the Congressional Pharmacy Caucus and Senate Pharmacy Caucus

The Congressional Pharmacy Caucus and Senate Pharmacy Caucus educate Members of Congress and staff about issues affecting community pharmacies and patient access to prescription drugs and pharmacy services. Thanks to Reps. Austin Scott & Peter Welch and Sens. Jon Tester & Jerry Moran who have graciously agreed to chair the respective caucuses.

Support State Legislative Priorities

NCPA will focus on legislative and regulatory initiatives to ensure fair PBM pharmacy audits, generic drug reimbursement and PBM transparency, as well as expansion of reimbursable pharmacist-provided services. Other issues of note include federal health care reform implementation (Exchanges), compounding, biosimilars and Medicaid reimbursement.

Thank you for your support of community pharmacy!
For more information call NCPA at 703.683.8200 and ask for Government Affairs