

ENSURING PATIENT ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL PHARMACIST SERVICES & STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

Support Federal Legislation to Protect the Front-Line Role Pharmacists Play to Deliver Essential Care and Services to America's Seniors

FEDERAL BARRIERS UNDERMINE THE ABILITY OF PHARMACISTS TO CARE FOR SENIORS

How current reimbursement mechanisms endanger patient access to pharmacy care:

In Medicare Part B, pharmacists are reimbursed for administering COVID-19 vaccines and treatments through temporary contracts or "roster billing" and Medicare does not reimburse pharmacists' testing services.



Without a federal reimbursement mechanism for pharmacist services, Medicare beneficiaries in particular will lose access to essential care and services provided by pharmacists.



Medicare beneficiaries living in rural, socially vulnerable, and underserved areas will be especially impacted by this gap in access to care.



ABOUT THE EQUITABLE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO PHARMACIST SERVICES ACT



Medicare Part B Reimbursement for Pharmacist Care & Services

H.R. 1770/S. 2477 creates Medicare Part B direct reimbursement mechanisms for pharmacists' services to protect America's seniors from the threat of infectious diseases.

EMPOWERING PHARMACISTS TO PROTECT SENIORS FROM PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS

H.R. 1770/S. 2477 establishes Medicare Part B reimbursement for essential services:



TESTING

> COVID-19 • Flu • Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) • Strep Throat



TREATMENT

> COVID-19 • Flu • Strep Throat • Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)



VACCINATION

> COVID-19 • Flu • Pneumococcal • Hepatitis B

AMERICA'S PHARMACISTS: AN ACCESSIBLE SOURCE OF CARE FOR SENIORS



PHARMACISTS ARE THE FIRST & MOST ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

9 in 10 Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy, and patients visit their community pharmacist approximately twice as frequently as they visit primary care physicians.¹



PHARMACISTS STRENGTHEN OUR NATION'S PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE.

Pharmacists in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program alone have administered more than **301 million COVID-19 vaccine doses** as of March 2023. Pharmacists provided over **50 million influenza and other vaccinations** since the beginning of the pandemic.²



PHARMACISTS KEEP SENIOR & RURAL COMMUNITIES HEALTHY.

More than half of pharmacists (55%) work in a community based setting and **77% of community pharmacies** serve population areas of 50,000 or fewer. Pharmacists have delivered many of the **25 million COVID-19 vaccines** to received by rural Americans.³



PHARMACISTS AVERTED 1 MILLION DEATHS & HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS IN COSTS.

By conservative estimates, the **350 million clinical interventions** to approximately 150 million people that pharmacists have provided during the pandemic **averted over 1 million COVID-19 deaths**, 8 million hospitalizations, and **\$450 billion in health care costs**.⁴



Congress must enact legislation to provide payment for essential pharmacist services under Medicare Part B.

H.R. 1770/S. 2477 will ensure pharmacists can continue to protect seniors from the threat of COVID-19, influenza, and other infectious diseases.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Get to Know Your Pharmacist." January 2021.

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Understanding the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination." August 2021.

³National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). "NCPA Releases 2020 Digest Report." October 2020; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. "Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Between Urban and Rural Counties – United States, December 14, 2020–January 31, 2022". March 2022.

⁴John D. Grabenstein. "Essential services: Quantifying the contributions of America's pharmacists in COVID-19 clinical interventions". Journal of the American Pharmacies Association. November 2022.