

ECAPS: Bipartisan Federal Legislation to Ensure Access to Essential Pharmacist Services for Medicare Beneficiaries



ABOUT THE ENSURING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO PHARMACIST SERVICES ACT (ECAPS)

ECAPS allows pharmacists to receive payment from Medicare Part B for providing select services for the flu, RSV, strep throat, and COVID-19 to seniors, who are the most vulnerable to complications from these conditions. Payments would apply only in states where pharmacists are already permitted by state law to deliver these services.



ECAPS PROVIDES REIMBURSEMENT FOR ESSENTIAL PHARMACIST SERVICES IN MEDICARE

ECAPS establishes Medicare Part B reimbursement for select pharmacist services in states where pharmacists are licensed to provide these services.



TESTING:

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



TREATMENT:

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



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

Pharmacists are the Most Accessible Health Care Provider.



Nine 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.^{1,2}

Pharmacists are Often the Only Qualified Health Care Provider for Rural Americans.



Nearly 200 rural hospitals have closed since 2005. For rural Americans in these areas, pharmacists are often the only nearby, qualified health care provider in their communities.^{3,4}

Pharmacists Protect Americans from Disease Threats.



By conservative estimates, the 350 million clinical interventions provided by pharmacists to approximately 150 million Americans for common respiratory conditions **averted over 1 million deaths, 8 million hospitalizations, and \$450 billion in health care costs.**⁵

Pharmacists Keep Senior & Rural Communities Healthy.



More than **half of pharmacists (55%) work in a community-based setting** and **77% of community pharmacies serve populations of 50,000 or fewer.**^{6,7}

WHY CONGRESS MUST PASS ECAPS

While Americans with private insurance, Medicaid beneficiaries, the uninsured, and federal employees may be covered, Congress must act to ensure access to essential pharmacist services for Medicare beneficiaries.

Over 190 organizations support ECAPS, including senior and rural advocacy groups, physician and provider groups, patient advocacy organizations, pharmacists, health systems, and many others.



Congress should enact ECAPS to ensure senior and rural communities can access essential services at the pharmacy.

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

² Valliant, Samantha N et al. "Pharmacists as accessible health care providers: quantifying the opportunity." Journal of managed care & specialty pharmacy vol. 28,1. January 2022.

³ Kono, M. Deller, S. "Rural Pharmacies an Overlooked Piece of the Rural Health Care Milieu." 2023.

⁴ Center for Health care Quality Payment Reform. "The Crisis in Rural Health Care – Saving Rural Hospitals." Saving Rural Hospitals, Jan. 2025.

⁵ Grabenstein, John D. "Essential services: Quantifying the contributions of America's pharmacists in COVID-19 clinical interventions." Journal of the American Pharmacists Association: JAPhA vol. 62,6 (2022).

⁶ National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). "NCPA Releases 2020 Digest Report." October 2020.

⁷ 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.