



COALITION *for* COMMUNITY  
PHARMACY ACTION

## NewsRelease

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### **Pharmacy Services Would be Popular Way to Improve Healthcare and Reduce Costs, Pharmacy Coalition Survey Shows**

*Pharmacists are key link in healthcare delivery system*

**Alexandria, Va.** – As the next President and new Congress grapple with fixing healthcare amid historic economic pressures, they may want to look at community pharmacies and the preventive services they can offer as a popular and effective strategy. The Coalition for Community Pharmacy Action (CCPA) released a [survey](#) revealing that 69 percent of likely voters said healthcare would be a “top five” concern when they cast their vote in the November 4<sup>th</sup> elections, and that they view pharmacists as a key link in healthcare delivery system.

CCPA is comprised of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA).

The telephone survey of 800 likely voters nationwide, conducted by the polling company™, inc. and WomanTrend, found pharmacists to be “vital” to overall healthcare, and regard them highly in terms of dependability and accessibility. Ninety-two percent of those surveyed agree that pharmacists are accessible and helpful with information about prescription medications and other health issues.

Those surveyed also revealed that 79 percent said they would like to take advantage of the expertise of pharmacists in how to take their medications properly, and to help prevent possible drug interactions, also known as “Medication Therapy Management” (MTM).

“Community pharmacy has long been committed to articulating the value of pharmacists,” said NACDS President and CEO Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE, and NCPA CEO and Executive Vice President Bruce Roberts, R.Ph. “Now with the current economic situation, that value is even greater as pharmacists can help patients manage their health, and take their prescription medications appropriately to avoid increased healthcare costs during these challenging financial times.”

“Pharmacists are highly educated, convenient and accessible healthcare providers,” said Anderson and Roberts. “Next week’s presidential elections will be critical in determining the best prescription for healthcare reform to help ensure that Americans can obtain affordable, quality and accessible healthcare.”

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*The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets, and mass merchants with pharmacies. Its more than 170 chain member companies include regional chains with a minimum of four stores to national companies. NACDS members also include more than 1,000 suppliers of pharmacy and front-end products, and nearly 90 international members representing 29 countries. Chains operate 39,000 pharmacies, and employ a total of more than 2.5 million employees, including 118,000 pharmacists. They fill more than 2.5 billion prescriptions yearly, and have annual sales of over \$750 billion. For more information about NACDS, visit [www.NACDS.org](http://www.NACDS.org).*

*The National Community Pharmacists Association, founded in 1898, represents the nation’s community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 23,000 pharmacies. The nation’s independent pharmacies, independent pharmacy franchises, and independent chains dispense nearly half of the nation’s retail prescription medicines. To learn more go to [www.ncpanet.org](http://www.ncpanet.org).*