



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

Support Competition, Consumer Choice, and Integrity in Pharmacy Benefits

Policy makers 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. Policy makers should consider expanding these pharmacist patient care services by designating pharmacists as Medicare Part B providers.

Support Medicare Beneficiaries Access to DTS from Small Business Pharmacies

New cuts to pharmacy payment rates for diabetes testing supplies (DTS) will likely force most community 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. In addition to the reimbursement cuts, beginning July 1, 2013, community pharmacies will no longer be allowed to deliver DTS to homebound patients and beneficiaries in long-term care and assisted living facilities. Members of Congress in both chambers and both parties should correct these provisions before patients lose access to their pharmacy of choice and vital supplies.

Protect Pharmacy Compounding

Pharmacy compounding of medications is an important part of medical care that allows for the dispensing of custom-made medications and should continue to be regulated by state Boards of Pharmacy, as all other medical licensed professional practices are. We will work to protect independent pharmacy compounding and patient access to these customized medications.

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.

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