



Key Pharmacy Issue:

Health Care Reform

The Michigan Pharmacists Association believes that health care reform is a unique opportunity to make sure that patients receive health care that is safe, effective and economically cost efficient. Pharmacists are the medication experts. Pharmacists' professional medication therapy management services must be included in any version of health care reform that Congress approves. Allowing pharmacists to provide medication therapy management services makes good public health policy.

Patient Care and Pharmacist Involvement

- **Pharmacists are the most accessible health care providers**
- Pharmacists are the medication experts
- Pharmacists are in nearly every community – rural, urban and suburban
- Community pharmacies (both chain and independent) are the health care safety net in local communities across the country
- Pharmacists provide patients with medication therapy management services that improve patient health care outcomes and reduce overall health care costs
- Pharmacists can provide general health screenings for blood pressure and cholesterol levels, diabetes and other conditions, helping patients to be proactive with their health
- Pharmacists provide vital immunizations to keep their patients healthy and safe

Cost Effective Care

- Pharmacists are able to assist individuals without insurance in obtaining cost effective medications every day
- Recent VA study showed that for **every \$1 spent on pharmacist provided medication therapy management services resulted in \$4 in health care savings**
- Patients taking medications prescribed prevent additional visits to physicians and emergency rooms

Enhanced Patient Safety

- Pharmacist provided **medication therapy management services** assure that patients are taking the correct medications which result in improved health care outcomes
- Pharmacists identify medication duplications and interactions, thus **preventing unnecessary** and costly emergency room visits or hospitalization.