



*Advocating on behalf of Michigan's pharmacy professionals for quality patient care*

## KEY STATEMENT

Pharmacists must be actively involved in solutions related to Department of Community Health issues for patients in Michigan to have the best care possible.

## BACKGROUND

Michigan pharmacy professionals have played an integral role in assisting the Department of Community Health in key issues to improve patient care. Appropriate reimbursement of the dispensing fee, prescription drug product and clinical pharmacy services helps pharmacies continue to provide quality care to beneficiaries. The Medicaid dispensing fee has remained unchanged this past year, and pharmacies continue to take on additional costs to lead the way with electronic prescriptions. Pharmacists continue to expand their key role in providing immunizations and increasing immunization rates, and for the first time this past year, Medicaid is now reimbursing for this service. Medicaid has considered introducing programs to help patients better manage their medications and lower health care costs through direct consultation with a pharmacist, but those medication therapy management programs have not been initiated by the Department.



## WHY IS PHARMACIST INVOLVEMENT IN DECISIONS ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS IMPORTANT?

- Costs continue to rise to provide quality pharmacy care to patients, and Michigan's Medicaid fee-for-service dispensing fee is one of the lowest in the nation. **In order to continue to provide access to patients, the dispensing fee MUST be maintained.**
- **Pharmacists must be actively involved in the e-prescription process and policy, and the cost of transmitting e-prescriptions must be shared between providers.** Pharmacists are in a unique position to ensure the quality and efficiency of electronic prescribing. Other providers are reimbursed for e-prescriptions; however, pharmacists are not.
- **No one is better at helping patients get the most out of their medications than pharmacists, the medication experts.** By implementing Medicaid medication therapy management programs, overall costs will decrease, as evidenced by studies in Michigan and across the nation.
- In order to **increase immunization rates in Michigan**, pharmacists must continue to be involved and reimbursed appropriately, as the most accessible health care providers.
- An integral piece of a patient's care is the medications they take to get well, maintain their health and reduce total health care costs. As such, **pharmacists must be a part of patient-centered medical home and accountable care organizations.**
- As a leader in health care technology, **pharmacists provide important perspective with health information exchanges (HIE)** and provide important data to keep patient's health records accurate for all other providers. However, this information is currently only being transmitted one way by the pharmacist. In order to safeguard patients, information must flow back and forth.
- In addition, pharmacists would be helpful in assisting with such issues as mental health parity, medical marijuana, emergency preparedness and others.

## BOTTOM LINE

**A patient's health care is not complete without a pharmacist's involvement.** Any discussion, program and solution related to a patient's health through the Department of Community Health needs pharmacy's perspective, expertise and active participation to be successful.



## Additional Information

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