



MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

# PHARMACISTS AND YOUR HEALTH CARE

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

## KEY STATEMENT

Pharmacists are the medication experts, and their professional services ensure that patients receive the best health care outcomes and obtain the best results from their medications. As the state professional pharmacy organization, Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) is committed to providing its members with support, advocacy and resources that ultimately improve patient care, safety, health, and the practice of pharmacy.

## BACKGROUND

The average adult fills about a dozen prescriptions and refills every year, and after age 65, they fill more than 30 prescriptions annually. With such a high volume of prescriptions being filled, it's vital for patients to understand their medications, including how to take them, what to do if they experience side effects, how long to take them and whether or not it's safe to combine them with other medications or dietary supplements. As the most accessible health care providers, pharmacists are in nearly every community (rural, urban and suburban), including hospitals, long-term care settings and other medical institutions. They're available to answer these questions and ensure that patients are getting the most from their medications.

## PHARMACISTS SAVE LIVES AND HEALTH CARE DOLLARS. HERE'S HOW:

- **Pharmacists identify medication duplications and interactions, thus preventing unnecessary and costly emergency room visits or hospitalizations.** As trained experts in medication safety and medication use, pharmacists are committed to ensuring that patients' experiences with prescription and over-the-counter medications are safe and effective. They are also involved throughout the course of patients' treatments, both at home and in health-systems, long-term care facilities and other institutions.
- **Pharmacists are able to assist individuals in obtaining cost effective medications every day.** They can review medication therapies and determine if there are any low-cost generic alternatives. Pharmacy professionals are also knowledgeable about prescription assistance programs, and pharmacies may partner with their local health department to offer specific services free or at a lower cost for those who are uninsured or underinsured.
- **Pharmacists are ready to help find solutions for patients to continue their therapies.** They can also act as an advocate with your insurance company to make sure your medications are covered.
- **Pharmacists are in the unique position to provide a wide variety of patient care services,** from one-on-one counseling with medication therapy management, to administering vaccines. They can also provide general health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol levels, diabetes and other conditions, helping patients to be proactive with their health. **The role of the pharmacist continues to expand, perfectly positioning pharmacy professionals to help address national health care issues and further increase their accessibility.**

## BOTTOM LINE

As the medication experts on the health care team, pharmacy professionals are committed to reducing health care costs, improving lives and increasing adherence. The public has ranked pharmacists in the top three each of the past eight years in Gallup's survey of honesty and integrity across professions. They rely on them for a wide array of patient care services and to guide them through the medication use process.





## Additional Information

If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact:

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