Joint Commission *of* Pharmacy Practitioners

MEMBER ORGANIZATI0N
UPDATES

ORGANIZATION: AMCP

Action Plan Implementation Activity

Pharmacy Quality

- AMCP responded to public comments made during an FDA and FTC March 9 public workshop on ensuring a competitive marketplace for biosimilars. AMCP submitted comments to the workshop's public docket on the value that managed care pharmacy tools bring to patients specifically, and to the health care system more generally. AMCP's comments also detail the important work done by the Biologics and Biosimilars Collective Intelligence Consortium (BBCIC), highlighting our commitment to ensuring that patients and clinicians have access to up-to-date research and information on biological products. Read AMCP's letter.

- *JMCP* published proceedings from two partnership forums: Principles for Sound P&T Committee Practices: What's Next? and Optimizing Prior Authorization for Appropriate Medication Selection.

- AMCP and AMCP Foundation Joint Research Committee published a research agenda in *JMCP* that identifies and prioritizes critical evidentiary gaps in managed care pharmacy, including: 1) real-world evidence to inform decision making; 2) value-based models to address total cost of care; 3) impact of benefit design or utilization management strategies on patient outcomes; and 4) impact of direct patient care services on patient outcomes. AMCP and the AMCP Foundation hope their work will inspire pharmacists, researchers, and funding agencies to close these gaps in knowledge and understanding.

- On July 13, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration issued a final rule that updated the regulations governing the privacy of patient substance use disorder treatment records to promote effective care coordination while protecting patient privacy. As part of the Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2, AMCP is excited to have worked toward this ruling.

Value of Pharmacists' Patient Care Services

- AMCP convened diverse stakeholders, including health plans, patient advocacy groups, employers, integrated delivery systems, PBMs, specialty pharmacies and the biopharmaceutical industry, for the Partnership Forum Helping Patients Anticipate and Manage Drug Costs, on March

12 and 13, 2020. Participants offered recommendations to address the rising cost of pharmaceuticals and how to best provide patients with timely and meaningful drug pricing information. Areas of discussion included how to increase patients' understanding of patient assistance programs and how copay policies fit into the affordability equation. Learn more.

- AMCP Foundation, in partnership with PRIME Education and the Case Management Society of America, introduced a new website in April 2020 that features the pharmacist patient care process. With CarePath for patients or caregivers and CareNavigator for clinicians, the tools at ad.care can improve understanding of atopic dermatitis and shared decision-making. This new resource joins our dyslipidemia, multiple sclerosis, and IBD web tools.

- AMCP and the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) released results of a new national survey on consumer health behavior in the face of the pandemic. Among the findings, nearly half (49 percent) report feeling "very comfortable" picking up prescriptions at their local pharmacy and speaking with their pharmacists about their medications. Since the pandemic started, nearly half (47 percent) received new medication, and the overwhelming majority (90 percent) did so at a local retail pharmacy. The ACHP/AMCP survey was cited in several national new stories, including Fierce Healthcare.

- AMCP CEO Susan A. Cantrell and Ceci Connolly, president and CEO of the Association of Community Health Plans, discussed effects of COVID-19 on health care delivery at a May 14 fireside chat at the Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) 2020 Annual Meeting. Read coverage of the event in Pharmacy Times.

- On June 1, AMCP submitted comments to CMS on its interim final rule implementing many of the Medicare program waivers the agency has issued in its efforts to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. AMCP's comments focused on the additional telehealth flexibilities that CMS is implementing for telehealth providers, arguing that pharmacists should be included as eligible telehealth providers in the Medicare program. AMCP also signed on to comments on the same topic by the Pharmacy Health IT Collaborative.

Health Information Technology

- *JMCP* published proceedings from AMCP Partnership Forum on Digital Therapeutics that explores ways to support the adoption and use of digital therapeutics (DTx).

- AMCP held a virtual press briefing on April 22 on how digital therapeutics are being assessed for coverage decisions and integrated into the health care system, especially during the ongoing pandemic. Experts from C4i, Akili Interactive, Pear Therapeutics and Express Scripts discussed digital therapeutics from both the manufacturer and payer perspectives and referred to AMCP's recent Partnership Forum on digital therapeutics. Read coverage of the press briefing in MedCity News, Specialty Pharmacy Continuum, and Pharmacy Technology Report.

- AMCP submitted comments on provisions in CMS' Part 1 of the Contract Year 2021 Policy and Technical Changes final rule that would permit a second specialty drug tier in Part D, the required implementation of a beneficiary real time benefit tool, and implementation of various SUPPORT Act provisions.

- AMCP joined with the Pharmacy HIT (PHIT) Collaborative on several efforts related to the expansion of pharmacist recognition as telehealth providers and to update pharmacy health IT-related programs. In February, AMCP signed on to a PHIT [letter](#) on the regulation of artificial intelligence supporting use of evidence-based guidelines and data in any forthcoming AI regulations. Also in March, AMCP signed on to the Collaboration's [comments](#) on the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan, to support bidirectional health IT technology communication and supporting a strategy for ensuring that costs do not become a barrier to individuals accessing their electronic health information.

- In April, AMCP joined PHIT's [comments](#) on a proposed Medicare Advantage and Part D policy and technical change proposed rule supporting pharmacists being recognized as telehealth providers in the Medicare program, the modification of network adequacy standards to recognize telehealth providers, and updated standards for electronic health records in the Part D medication therapy management program. In June, with AMCP's support, PHIT submitted [comments](#) on CMS' interim final rule implementing waivers designed to address the COVID-19 public health emergency, specifically advocating for pharmacists to be recognized as telehealth providers in the Medicare program.

Provider Status Recognition

- On June 1, AMCP submitted comments on a CMS interim final rule implementing many of the Medicare program waivers the agency has issued in its efforts to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. AMCP's comments focused on the additional flexibilities that CMS is implementing for telehealth providers, arguing that pharmacists should be included as eligible telehealth providers in the Medicare program. [Read AMCP's comments](#).

- AMCP joined other national pharmacy organizations in sending a letter to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) urging the department to permit pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 vaccines when they become available. The letter asks HHS to issue a declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act authorizing licensed pharmacists to order and administer all Food and Drug Administration approved vaccines and that the order preempt any state and local requirements that prohibit or effectively prohibit pharmacist vaccine administration. In April, HHS issued a similar order under the authority of the PREP Act that allows licensed pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests. [Read the joint letter](#).

Organization Update (other information):

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AMCP launched a [COVID-19 resource](#) center and a weekly email roundup of the most important news articles related to COVID-19 and pharmacy practice.

- In January, AMCP released Version 4.1 of the [AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions](#), which includes two new dossier types that define health care decisionmakers' evidence needs for unapproved products and new indications that are under review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Biopharmaceutical manufacturers can use this framework to share this information. In related work, AMCP has begun hosting three pre-approval information exchange (PIE) webinars. These PIE webinars are provided free of charge to health care decisionmakers that work with payers, formulary committees, or other similar entities responsible for the selection of drugs for coverage or reimbursement.

- *JMCP* marks its 25th anniversary in 2020. To commemorate this milestone, each month, *JMCP* is reprinting an original article from a previous year, dating as far back as 1995. The reprinted articles feature topics of significance to managed care pharmacy. Each reprinted article is accompanied by a contemporary reflection that will consider the historical significance of the topic, as well as the current and future state. View the series here.

- Coinciding with its 30th birthday, AMCP Foundation unveiled a new mission statement in June. The new AMCP Foundation mission is: "To strengthen managed care pharmacy by investing in future-focused research and inspiring the next generation to improve patient health."

  - This year AMCP Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary of hosting the Annual National Student Pharmacist Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition. The competition began in 2000 with a case built on a fictional drug for the treatment and prevention of postmenopausal osteoporosis. This year, 69 schools and colleges of pharmacy from across the country registered for the P&T competition, with lead sponsorship from Genentech. University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy took top honors in AMCP Foundation's 20th Annual National Student Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition. The University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy took second place and Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy came in third place.

  - AMCP and AMCP Foundation annually recognize a group of outstanding members who reflect the best of managed care pharmacy and the organizations. AMCP accepted nominations last fall for its series of awards that were scheduled to be presented during the Annual Awards Dinner at AMCP 2020. While that meeting was cancelled, AMCP still offers its heartfelt congratulations to the 2020 recipients. Read about each award recipient. Managed care pharmacy's highest honor, the Steven G. Avey Award, went this year to David Calabrese, RPh, MHP for his lifetime achievement in managed care pharmacy.

- AMCP and AMCP Foundation are taking a stand against racial injustice and starting work to identify specific, long-term actions that improve patient outcomes and health equity among all Americans, including Black Americans, indigenous people, and people of color. Read more from AMCP and AMCP Foundation.