

Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners



MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

During this portion of the meeting each organization is provided an opportunity to provide an update on activities. We ask that organizations providing updates focus their brief discussions on activities being undertaken that advance progress in one or more of JCPP's Vision Action Plan (Patient Care Process, Pharmacy Quality, Value of Pharmacists' Patient Care Services, HIT, Provider Status Recognition). This discussion will serve as JCPP's process for monitoring the progression of its Action Plan. *Please bring hard-copies of this form for meeting attendees and include within the form links to material vs bringing hard copies to meeting.*

ORGANIZATION: National Community Pharmacists Association

- Action Plan Implementation Activity
 - Pharmacists' Patient Care Process
 - Enrollment for the 2021-2022 NCPA Innovation Center/CPESN Community Pharmacy Fellowship is open. This program focuses on transforming community pharmacies for clinical services and Pharmacist eCare Plan documentation which is based on the PPCP. The 2020-2021 inaugural year of enrolled 27 pharmacy-pharmacist sites.
 - Value of Pharmacists' Patient Care Services
 - **Senate Finance Committee Chairman Visits Grants Pass Pharmacy** Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) visited Grants Pass Pharmacy, owned by NCPA President-elect Michele Belcher. Sen. Wyden observed COVID vaccines administered in the pharmacy and was reminded of the important role community pharmacy's play in rural and underserved communities. Sen. Wyden was also encouraged to support pro-pharmacy initiatives, including addressing pharmacy DIR fees and Medicaid managed care spread pricing.
 - Monitoring data to see effect of community pharmacies on vaccinating people based on Social Vulnerability Index factors
 - CPESN pharmacies passed the 1 million vaccination mark through the federal partner program. CPESN is one of the seven community pharmacy based federal contracts with CDC. These groups have illustrated to CDC that privately held pharmacies can be contracted with easily like their chain drugstore cousins.
 - HIT
 - NCPA identified knowledge gap among members of the PQA Data & Interoperability Advisory Group with respect to current adoption of standards that support interoperability. This is of key important for using pharmacy-reported data for pharmacy-level measures. The next quarterly call will recap Pharmacist eCare Plan capabilities.

- Organization Update (other information):
 - **NCPA Members Push a Pro-patient, Pro-pharmacy Agenda at Virtual Fly-In Meetings** The 2021 Congressional Pharmacy Fly-In, the first virtual one in NCPA history, is in the books with some impressive numbers. More than 300 community pharmacists from 47 states held virtual meetings with more than 250 congressional offices. Participants used the opportunity to tout community pharmacy's contribution to the fight against the coronavirus and to push for much-needed full pharmacy DIR reform. Also on the agenda: a push for prohibiting spread pricing in Medicaid managed care; addressing pharmacy access issues including PBM conflicts of interest and patient steering; and ensuring Medicare payment for enhanced pharmacist services such as testing and vaccines.
 - **Bipartisan Network Adequacy Legislation Introduced in House** Reps. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and Morgan Griffith (R-Va.) reintroduced legislation that would give seniors more convenient access to discounted or "preferred" copays for prescription drugs at their pharmacy of choice. *The Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act* (H.R. 2608) would also empower more seniors to choose the pharmacy that best fits their needs; promote transparency so that pharmacies have clear understanding of their reimbursement; and tackle conflicts of interest that exist with patient steering by pharmacy benefit managers to pharmacies affiliated with the PBM.
 - **NCPA Reports Highlight Successes on Behalf of Community Pharmacy** NCPA released the *NCPA 2020 COVID-19 Report* detailing the organization's extensive work over the last year to help independent pharmacists fight the coronavirus pandemic and adjust to the changes the public health emergency had on their small businesses. Earlier this year, NCPA also released its *2020 NCPA Advocacy Annual Report*, a comprehensive review of its broader advocacy efforts, including work to change the pharmacy payment model and rein in pharmacy benefit managers through the *Rutledge v. PCMA* Supreme Court case and other pathways.
 - **NCPA has been tracking COVID-19 vaccine administration fee billing issues** reported by community pharmacies (NCPA, APhA, NASPA, ASHP distributed reporting link). Most recent issue that bubbled up is claims submitted for VAH being returned with a patient pay amount due to patient deductible. The vaccine provider agreement prohibits pharmacies from collecting anything from patients. APhA seeking confirmation/clarification from VAH.
 - **Pharmacy DIR lawsuit amended adding key additional plaintiffs**—The lawsuit NCPA filed against CMS (*NCPA v. Azar*) has been amended to add APhA, CSRO (Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, two independent pharmacies, and two regional pharmacy chains). The government has until mid-May to respond.