

TWO NEWS RELEASES BELOW

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NASPA Echoes Report Findings

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 9, 2012 - The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) echoes the findings in the Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice released today from the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, U.S. Public Health Service.

In a letter released from Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA, U.S. Surgeon General, she states, "This report provides the evidence health leaders and policy makers need to support evidence-based models of cost effective patient care that utilizes the expertise and contributions of our nation's pharmacists as an essential part of the healthcare team."

"The profession of pharmacy is grateful to the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, U.S. Public Health Service and their Commissioned Corps colleagues for the compilation of this critical report," said Rebecca Snead, EVP and CEO of NASPA. "We are thankful to the Surgeon General for her letter recognizing the importance of the recommendations contained. This will be an invaluable tool for NASPA and state pharmacy associations to use to work with health leaders and policy makers to implement the recommendations contained herein."

Key recommendations of the report:

- 1) Health leaders and policy makers should further explore ways to optimize the role of pharmacists to deliver a variety of patient-centered care and disease prevention, in collaboration with physicians or as part of the healthcare team.
- 2) Utilization of pharmacists as an essential part of the healthcare team to prevent and manage disease in collaboration with other clinicians can improve quality, contain costs, and increase access to care.
- 3) Recognition of pharmacists as health care provider, clinicians and an essential part of the health care team is appropriate given the level of care they provided in many health care settings.
- 4) Compensation models, reflective of the range of care provided by pharmacists, are needed to sustain these patient oriented, quality improvement services.

NASPA works very closely with state pharmacy associations to assure that pharmacists

are recognized as an essential healthcare provider to each and every patient and this report helps promote this in every state.

The full report and the support letter signed by Dr. Benjamin are attached for your reference, and will be accessible at: <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/>.

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPAPE).

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Pharmacy Leaders, Partners and Stakeholders,

Greetings from the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS)! I'm very pleased to inform you that *Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice - A Report to the U.S. Surgeon General 2011* is now available to the public. **If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: tsai.yiyong6@gmail.com.**

Respectfully,

LT Yiyong Tsai, PharmD, RPh, MPH

Special Assistant to the Chief Professional Officer, U.S. Public Health Service Pharmacy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, January 09, 2012**

**Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice - A
Report to the U.S. Surgeon General 2011**

Now Available to the Public

This comprehensive Report to the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin on current pharmacy practice has been reviewed and discussed collaboratively between U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Pharmacy leadership, the Office of the Surgeon General, and Dr. Benjamin throughout the past year. For the first time in our history, the U.S. Surgeon General was presented with a comprehensive evidence-based report on pharmacy practice. After reviewing the Report, Dr. Benjamin issued a signed letter of support.

The Report utilizes objective data to advance the discussion of how models of innovative care involving pharmacists can ultimately help alleviate demands on the health care system (access, safety, quality, cost, provider shortages, etc.) and improve outcomes. The Report describes existing, accepted, and successful models of health care delivery and patient care using pharmacists as health care providers and essential members of the health care team.

This Report provides a thorough evidence-based discussion of the comprehensive patient care services that pharmacists currently provide. For nearly 50 years, federal pharmacists have been afforded the opportunity to practice collaboratively with physicians and other health care providers in expanded scopes delivering comprehensive disease management, health promotion, disease prevention, medication therapy management and other cognitive clinical services. The Report presents public and private sector models, and calls for health leadership and policy makers to support and implement existing, evidence-based and cost-effective pharmacist-delivered patient care models as the demands within our health care system escalate.

The Report is organized into four focus points of discussion:

Focus Point 1 discusses how pharmacists are already integrated in many practice settings as health care providers through collaborative practice with physicians or as an essential part of a health care team. The Report presents data that interprofessional support exists for this model of care. **Focus Points 2 and 3** make the case that for pharmacists to continue to improve patient and health care system outcomes as well as sustain various roles in the delivery of care, recognition as health care providers and compensation models reflective of the range of care provided are needed. **Focus Point 4** outlines a robust amount of evidence-based outcomes from pharmacist-delivered care, aligned with demands on the health care system such as access, prevention, quality and cost-effectiveness.

RADM Scott Giberson, Chief Professional Officer for PHS Pharmacy stated, "I firmly believe that one of the most evidence-based and cost-effective decisions we can make as a nation is to maximize the expertise and scope of pharmacists, and minimize expansion barriers to successful health care delivery models. It is the right thing to do for our patients."

He added, "PHS Pharmacy has a responsibility to help advance the profession and provide resources to assist our pharmacists as they improve health care outcomes. I would like to personally thank pharmacy stakeholders nationwide for their partnerships and ongoing commitment to move the profession forward and improve the overall health care and wellness of the nation."

The full report and the support letter signed by Dr. Benjamin are attached for your reference, and will be accessible at: <http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/>.