

Good morning NASPA members:

Most of you know I have worked on Federal legislation to have our New Mexico Pharmacist Clinicians, along with the Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners in North Carolina and Montana, recognized as providers under Medicare Part B. This legislation has never moved because it impacts very few pharmacists and only those with additional training.

Pharmacist Sandra Leal (Arizona) started a petition to have pharmacists recognized as providers by CMS.

I would like to encourage you to help have this petition circulated to pharmacists nationwide. This petition is not limited to a small group of pharmacists or to any specific healthcare setting. It is designed to seek broad recognition of pharmacist capabilities and impact on the health of patients.

Recognize Pharmacists as Health Care Professionals Petition has over 2,400 signatures! PLEASE SIGN TODAY

Click the following link (or copy and past in your browser):

<http://www.change.org/petitions/the-president-of-the-united-states-recognize-pharmacists-as-health-care-providers>

The number of signatures has grown from 427 to 2276 in just 2 days. This is a tangible way to take action!

An article about clinical pharmacist practice and reimbursement in NM and NC is available on the ASHP website under the "AJHP" SECTION.

Recognize pharmacists as health care providers!

Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Congress.

Recognize pharmacists as health care providers!

Despite overwhelming evidence of the positive impact pharmacists can have on patient health, pharmacists are not recognized as healthcare providers under the Social Security Act and, therefore, cannot be paid by Medicare for therapy management and patient consultation services. The Social Security Act does recognize other healthcare professionals such as dietitians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, and clinical social workers.

By changing the compensation structure allowed under Medicare, we can ensure that patients have access to the medication expertise of pharmacists. Studies have shown that when a

pharmacist is directly involved in patient care, patients have fewer adverse drug reactions, experience improved outcomes, and healthcare costs are reduced.

The perils of adverse effects from taking multiple medications affect all age groups. According to a recent survey, just over half of all Americans take at least 2 medications each day and nearly one-third take 4 or more medications each day. For the Medicare population, medication use is even higher - nearly half of Americans aged 65 and older take at least 4 medications each day.

This is a critical safety issue!!

Sincerely,
[Your name]

Dale Tinker, Executive Director

We support the
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New Mexico Poison Center
Saving lives.....one call at a time.
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