

NCPA Update

August 29-September 2, 2022

- [NCPA's Month of Action Wrapping Up, But Opportunities for Pharmacy Visits Remain](#)
- [NCPA Provides Information on the Value of Independent Pharmacies to CMS](#)
- [Part D Open Enrollment Opens October 15](#)
- [NCPA Provides Feedback on "Commercialization" of COVID-19 Shots and Treatments](#)
- [FDA Expands Age Range for Novavax Vaccine](#)
- [NCPA Quoted in Drug Store News Article About Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice](#)
- [NCPA Holds Virtual Meeting with Members on State Boards of Pharmacy](#)
- [NCPA State Legislative Activity Update](#)

NCPA's Month of Action Wrapping Up, But Opportunities for Pharmacy Visits Remain

NCPA's Month of Action is wrapping up, but community pharmacists continue to host legislators in their pharmacies. As of this writing, 59 visits with legislators, or administration officials, occurred or are planned, including 22 visits with legislators on key committees or leadership. CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-Lasure has participated in a visit.

Recent visits include Reps. Don Beyer (D-Va.), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee visiting Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray, Madeleine Dean (D-Pa.) visiting Eric's Rx Shoppe, and Mike Carey (R-Ohio) visiting a Happy Druggist location.

These are just a few of the many pharmacy visits hosted by NCPA members over the past month. Hosting a legislator or their staff member in your pharmacy is an effective way to build a lasting relationship. Check out [this video](#) of Rep. Buddy Carter (R-Ga.) and NCPA Vice President Michael Kim discussing how to effectively host a legislator. We're asking all community and LTC pharmacists to participate in our [Month of Action](#). While the August recess is winding down, it looks likely that Congress will also be out of session for most of October, so if you have not yet extended an invitation don't delay any further! Please let us know of your interest in participating by completing this [interest form](#) or by emailing [Michael Rule](mailto:Michael.Rule@ncpa.com) and submit your invites to your legislators as soon as possible.

NCPA Provides Information on the Value of Independent Pharmacies to CMS

This week, NCPA submitted comments to a Request for Information (RFI) from CMS regarding Medicare Advantage. For the first time in its history, enrollment in Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans outnumbered enrollment in standalone prescription drug plans. NCPA recommended to CMS that integration of services such as diabetes prevention programs (DPP), diabetes self-management training (DSMT), remote therapeutic monitoring (RTM), immunizations, chronic disease management, and others, in community pharmacies provides key benefits to their beneficiaries. Utilization of community health workers (CHWs) within the pharmacy team was also emphasized to CMS in the context of care coordination. The RFI also gave opportunity for NCPA to comment on barriers to competition within the Medicare Advantage market, such as network access and vertical integration of PBMs. Click [here](#) to read the full comments.

Part D Open Enrollment Opens October 15

Are you prepared to educate your patients on Medicare Part D enrollment, which begins Oct. 15 for the 2023 plan year? See our quick [reference guide](#) to Medicare Part D plans for 2023, including information

on the standard benefit design and cost-sharing, as well as our [bag stuffer](#) for patients. CMS [announced](#) that the average basic monthly premium for standard Medicare Part D coverage is projected to be approximately \$31.50 in 2023, an expected decrease of 1.8 percent from \$32.08 in 2022. For more information on Medicare Part D rates for 2023, see [here](#).

NCPA Provides Feedback on “Commercialization” of COVID-19 Shots and Treatments

The Department of Health and Human Services(HHS) plans to [transition payment](#) for COVID-19 shots and treatments from HHS to the private healthcare industry. On August 30, HHS held a stakeholder meeting, seeking feedback from NCPA and others on reimbursement and coverage, regulatory issues, and access for the uninsured. NCPA emphasized the need for policy on how to use, reserve, and prioritize product for patients who have trouble accessing it in any future commercialization model. NCPA stated that pharmacy willingness to provide extensive reporting in a commercialized model will fade as reimbursements fall to typical commercial rates. NCPA also stressed that a commercial distribution model (as opposed to a government-directed distribution model) may result in different pharmacies being able to order therapeutics.

FDA Expands Age Range for Novavax Vaccine

The Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine is now authorized for use in patients aged 12 and up after FDA evaluated the safety and efficacy for patients age 12-17 years. The Novavax vaccine is the first protein-based COVID-19 vaccine authorized in the U.S.

NCPA Quoted in *Drug Store News* Article About Expanding Pharmacists’ Scope of Practice

Last month, NCPA participated in an interview with [Drug Store News](#) on their article about the state of play for pharmacist scope of practice in nine states: California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington. State Government Affairs Manager Belawoe Akwakoku spoke of how the COVID-19 pandemic was an opportunity for pharmacists to show their value to public health and positive health outcomes. “I think the pandemic has definitely shown that pharmacists can respond to the challenges and can respond to the demand.” He added “Clearly, there’s definitely a lot of opportunity for pharmacists to continue to broaden their scope.”

NCPA Holds Virtual Meeting with Members on State Boards of Pharmacy

In late August, NCPA held its quarterly meeting with NCPA members who are members of their respective states’ Board of Pharmacy. NCPA staff gave updates on both state and federal activity and answered questions regarding the implementation of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA). There was robust discussion regarding the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision and its effects on pharmacists dispensing medications and their business across state lines. The next meeting will be in-person at the [NCPA Annual Convention](#) in Kansas City, Missouri.

NCPA State Legislative Activity Update

NCPA tracks state legislation related to our top three state priorities: [Medicaid reform](#), [scope of practice and compensation for services](#), and [PBM reform and regulation](#). Click each issue for a report of bills that have been introduced so far this session specifically dealing with these three issue areas. You can access the individual bill language and basic information on the bill by clicking on the bill numbers in the attached report. Bills that have moved this week are listed at the top in the “Recently Updated” section.