



# MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY

PO Box 1569 • Helena, MT 59624 • [www.rxmt.org](http://www.rxmt.org) • Phone 406-449-3843 • Fax 406-442-8018

## MONTANA PHARMACIST PATIENT CARE ALLIANCE REPORT

Payment for pharmacists' service in Montana has been underway since July 2017. In December 2018, meetings were held with representatives from the Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA), Montana Pharmacist Patient Care Alliance (MPPCA), and Montana Medicaid to discuss successes and challenges to the new program. Reports were also obtained from other payers. All payer groups report that despite a slow start in clinical pharmacist practitioner (CPP) enrollment in the insurance programs, they have now all paid claims submitted by physician practices for services provided by CPPs. The Montana Board of Pharmacy reports that there are now 22 CPPs in Montana and other applications are pending approval.

Medicaid continues to be the largest payer of CPP services. They have 14 CPPs enrolled, 175 members served, with \$42,817.13 of claims paid as of December 2018. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana reports 14 enrolled CPPs, 30 patients served, and \$2123.29 paid out to date. Pacific Source has 4 CPPs enrolled with limited activity so far.

### SUCCESSES

In a January 2019 MPPCA conference call, Pam Danforth reported that Billings Clinic has expanded their ambulatory care services in both primary care and specialty care including oncology and rheumatology. They now have 7 clinical pharmacists in outpatient settings. Physician referrals and patient numbers are growing monthly and they are tracking measure to determine the impact of clinical pharmacy services on patient outcomes. Amy Moser, director of pharmacy at RiverStone Health reports that they have been billing since early 2018. In addition to pharmacist-provided comprehensive medication management clinics they have added interdisciplinary Hepatitis C and Medicare annual visit clinics. They are also working on options to improve efficiencies such as the addition of a clinical pharmacy technician to assist with streamlining clerical activities.

### CHALLENGES

Initially, it can take time to convince billing departments that medication therapy management services provided by CPPs is actually covered by payers in Montana. Once that is done, it is essential to work together with your billing department to develop the billing process and meet documentation requirements.

The majority of claims to date have come from community health centers who have long established clinical pharmacy services and a large number of Medicaid beneficiaries. Some private health systems in Montana have expanded clinical pharmacy services under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) program, an advanced alternative payment model, so are not currently billing insurance companies separately for their services. St. Peter's Hospital and other health systems are working on processes for billing patients whose insurance companies do not cover clinical pharmacy services.

### NEXT STEPS

Now that reimbursement for CPP services is a reality, interest remains high in how to continue to expand access to clinical pharmacy services. This involves building a business case for services and providing support for pharmacists interested in pursuing the CPP designation. In addition, all pharmacists need to continue to educate others, including payers and legislators, about the expanding role of the pharmacists and the unique value that pharmacists bring to the patient care team.

### NEXT MEETING:

April 26, 2019, time TBA, in conjunction with the MPA spring academy. Join us in person in Billings or Missoula or by phone. Please contact Carla Cobb at [carla@capitahealthconsulting.com](mailto:carla@capitahealthconsulting.com) for more information.

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## TODD KOEPP BOWL OF HYGEIA WINNER

The Montana Pharmacy Association is pleased to announce that Billings pharmacist, Todd Koepp has received the prestigious, "Bowl of Hygeia Award."

Todd was recognized during the association's annual award banquet on January 12, 2019 at Big Sky Resort by MPA Chair Rory Johnson who said, "Two words come to mind when we think of Todd: loyalty and integrity. He has worked at St. Vincent Healthcare for over 40 years. His dedication to St. Vincent Healthcare and its mission set him apart from others. He has served as a Staff Pharmacist, Team Leader, Supervisor, and Operations Manager. Over his career he has taken care of daily issues that arise, led numerous construction projects, reviewed safety events and developed the orientation and training of every pharmacy technician and intern."

Rory noted that in addition to being a respected pharmacist, Todd is a dedicated volunteer in his local community. He said, "Todd has served on the Institutional Review Board in Billings and helps with bookkeeping and memorial services for The Compassionate Friends. He is also an active member of his

church leadership team, serving as the Head of the Property Committee. In addition, Todd has volunteered with St. John's Ministries and has been active with Habitat for Humanity. He is a past president of the Montana Pharmacy Association when it was the Montana Society of Health-System Pharmacists."

The "Bowl of Hygeia" Award is presented annually by participating pharmacy associations in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the ten Canadian provinces. The recipients are selected by their respective associations for their outstanding record of community service. The first Montana Bowl of Hygeia was awarded in 1959 to John J. Downey of Butte. Congratulations Todd Koepp on being named this year's Montana Bowl of Hygeia winner!



## ANDREA LANNON CHOSEN FOR EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AWARD



Bozeman pharmacist Andrea Lannon was chosen this year as the recipient of the "Excellence in Innovation Award" during the association's annual awards banquet.

Presenting her award was Mike Bertagnoli, who stated, "Andrea took the lead at the Bozeman Health's Pharmacy Division to successfully launch our pharmacist led centralized refill pilot program. As the lead

person on the project Andrea met with primary care providers,

developed protocols and effectively identified criteria to base clinical decisions on authorizing refills. The results of her efforts are that our turnaround time for processing refill requests has decreased from 3-4 days to 1 day for the majority of refills. Plus, provider satisfaction, nurse satisfaction and most importantly patient satisfaction with our new service is off the charts."

It was noted that Andrea is a busy wife and mother, who also finds time to work with the Bozeman Clinic's Community Care team to provide mobile care services to communities surrounding the Bozeman area.

The Montana Pharmacy Association congratulates Andrea on receiving the Excellence in Innovation Award and for all she has done to advance the pharmacy profession in Montana.

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## MONTANA PHARMACY ASSOCIATION LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

The Montana Pharmacy Association has a Facebook page, available through the Association's website at [www.rxmt.org](http://www.rxmt.org). This MPA feature serves as a popular and easy way for members and anyone interested in Montana pharmacy related issues to stay connected. We hope you will join us!

## FORMER MPA CHAIR LYNDEE FOGEL RECEIVES PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR AWARD



Former MPA Chair, Lyndee Fogel of Dillon has received the association's "Fitzgerald Pharmacist of the Year Award". The "Pharmacist of the Year" award is presented annually by MPA to a pharmacist who has demonstrated leadership and service to the pharmacy profession.

Lyndee was recognized by MPA Chair Rory Johnson who stated, "When she served on the Board

of Directors of MPA, Lyndee excelled in all aspects, especially

as her tenure as chair of the programs/awards committee." He added, "She is a very active as a preceptor and many quality pharmacists have honed their skills during their rotations while under her tutelage. She has also served as our state delegate at APhA for many years.

Prior to attending pharmacy school, she was a pharmacy technician for 12 years and has helped to develop ambulatory care clinical programs at Barrett Hospital in Dillon.

Lyndee and her husband (Kal) have been in the Dillon area for over 20 years. They are active in local community with the Ramblin Rose Drill Team (equestrian) and they enjoy riding horses, four wheeling, and playing golf.

## LEVI SHYPKOWSKI OF FLORENCE PHARMACY WINS DISTINGUISHED YOUNG PHARMACIST AWARD

Levi Shypkowski, a pharmacist with Florence Pharmacy was selected as the winner of this year's Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award. This award is presented annually to a pharmacist who exemplifies professionalism, leadership and is a role model to their peers.

Levi's award was announced at the Montana Pharmacy Association Awards Banquet at Big Sky Resort. At the ceremony

Levi was commended for his many accomplishments by MPA Chair Rory Johnson who said, "Levi became a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C) and has enhanced the existing Asthma Program at Florence Pharmacy. His expertise has improved the lives of countless patients. He also has helped to improve their Travel Immunization Clinic as well as their Ambulatory Anticoagulation Clinic."

## PSYCHE BEHAN OF MISSOULA NAMED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN AWARD WINNER

The Montana Pharmacy Association Board of Directors announces that Psyche Behan, a pharmacy technician with Community Medical Center in Missoula has received the association's Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award.

MPA Board Chair Rory Johnson stated, "Her considerate and caring attitude for her peers and coworkers makes her the tech with whom everyone wants to work." He added, "Her leadership skills as well as attention to detail makes her the "go to" employee for training as well as a problem solving. She has been easily adaptable to cross train in every aspect of the pharmacy tech role."

Psyche has been very involved with civic organizations and community activities since she was in grade school in the

Philippines. She was class president in high school and received the conduct, religion and loyalty awards while volunteering to teach English and Math. Her current accomplishments include: -sponsors kids in Compassion International and sponsors kids in Samaritan's Purse.org which is a nondenominational Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to people around the world.





## MPA HEALTH-SYSTEMS ACADEMY UPDATES

### 6TH ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR—APRIL 26-27, BILLINGS AND MISSOULA

Save the date for the sixth annual MPA Health-Systems Academy Spring Seminar on April 26th and 27th. The seminar will be held at the St. Vincent Healthcare Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy in Missoula, with both sites linked by teleconference. The seminar will highlight research from the pharmacy residents throughout the state as they prepare for the regional Residency Conferences. The agenda will also include updates from the Montana state representatives to the 2019 ASHP House of Delegates and a clinical pearl session. The planning committee is excited about the upcoming seminar and hopes to see you all there!

### 2019 ASHP HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to all of our nominees in this year's ASHP House of Delegate election and to all of the Montana ASHP members that took the time to vote in the election. Hugh Easley from Kalispell Regional Healthcare has been elected as this year's alternate delegate and will serve as our state delegate in 2020 and 2021. Jason Nickisch from Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula and Jeff Ferber from Billings Clinic will represent the state of Montana when the ASHP House of Delegates convenes in June at the ASHP Summer Meeting in Boston, MA.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIANS TO CHANGE IN 2020

by Loren Bonner

Aspiring Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhTs) can expect changes to certification beginning in 2020.

Using research and feedback from industry that occurs every 5 years, the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) will update the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) and also offer technicians submitting certification applications the option to either gain equivalent work experience or complete a PTCB-recognized education/training program.

Eligibility requirements for the Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT) Program have also changed. PTCB now offers an application process for education/training programs to become PTCB recognized.

The process requires directors of education/training programs not already accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists/Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ASHP/ACPE) and/or by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) to submit attestation. Programs that are ASHP/ACPE and ABHES accredited are recognized as fulfilling PTCB's curriculum requirements and are not required to attest. Education/

training programs can apply now for PTCB recognition, said PTCB.

Students who complete a PTCB-recognized education/training program will be eligible to apply for, and earn, their CPhT credential starting in 2020, according to PTCB. Those who are interested in an alternative pathway can gain work experience when they complete 500 work hours and attest to fulfilling specific knowledge requirements.

"While PTCB values education as a key component to earning certification, we also recognize the merit of work experience," said William Schimmel, PTCB executive director and CEO, in a statement. "This pathway means technicians who've worked extensively in the field, but haven't been in a position to complete PTCB-recognized education, can still pursue our national certification."

As for changes to the PTCE beginning January 1, 2020, students will see content now organized into four knowledge areas rather than the current nine. PTCB said the new categories will focus on essential knowledge that applies across practice setting.



Pharmacy

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## PHARMACY DIR PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY NEARLY 3,500 PHARMACISTS, & 150+ PHARMACY STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING MPA

A years-long effort led by the National Community Pharmacists Association to build support for a proposal to move pharmacy price concessions to point-of-sale reached a critical milestone. Nearly 3,500 pharmacists, and 170 patients formally voiced their support for parts of a proposed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services drug pricing rule that would eliminate the retroactive nature of pharmacy direct and indirect remuneration fees, or pharmacy DIR.

The proposed changes also received support from more than 150 pharmacy stakeholder organizations (including the Montana Pharmacy Association) representing diverse interests, which unified their voices and submitted a joint letter of support to CMS. Additionally, more than two dozen patient advocacy organizations supported the proposed rule on the premise that, if finalized, the pharmacy DIR fixes will save the average patient nearly \$200 per year or more in some cases on their out-of-pocket prescription drug costs.

NCPA submitted its own comments in response to the proposed rule, which is titled “Modernizing Part D and Medicare Advantage to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenses.” NCPA joined forces with the National Association of Chain Drugstores and the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy on a joint comment letter asking for a pharmacy DIR fee fix and standardized pharmacy metrics, and also also sent a joint comment letter with the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and the Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition focusing on harm to seniors with proposed protected

class changes, as well as on the need for a new definition of negotiated price and standardized pharmacy measures.

“NCPA had asked CMS to include all pharmacy price concessions at the point of sale – or, ideally, eliminate pharmacy DIR altogether – in response to the administration’s request for information about its ‘Blueprint to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Costs,’” said NCPA CEO B. Douglas Hoey, Pharmacist, MBA. “This proposed rule is evidence that we are being heard, and we applaud the administration for putting out this proposal to include pharmacy price concessions at the point of sale. Eliminating the retroactive application of these fees would provide much-needed predictability and stabilization to pharmacy operations, and would save Part D beneficiaries billions of dollars.

“Less uncertainty for pharmacies, lower costs for seniors – that’s a no-brainer in our book. And as witnessed in comments to CMS, an overwhelming number agree.

“Now is the time to bring more transparency into our health care system and a reprieve to small business community pharmacies and seniors. We are grateful to the administration for recognizing this, and strongly encourage them to finalize this proposal. Community pharmacists are ready partners in this and other ongoing efforts to lower drugs costs and eliminate pharmacy DIR once and for all.





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## IT'S LOCAL AND IT'S PERSONAL – AND IT'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Pharmacist B. Douglas Hoey, MBA, CEO of the National Community Pharmacists Association*

You've all heard the phrase, "All politics is local." Most people attribute that phrase to former House Speaker Tip O'Neill. No matter who said it first, there's one important thing to remember: In the ever-changing world of politics, it's one of the few immutable rules.

Why? Because when things ARE CLOSE AND personal, they matter more. It's easy not to care about things that happen in faraway countries, even across the country. But when things start affecting your neighbor, your aunt, the man down the street, that gets your attention.

We're seeing a lot of movement on pharmacy issues in statehouses across the country. We're just over two months into the year, and we are already seeing real momentum on the issues that matter most to independent pharmacists. If you're looking for some good news as we head into a new month, we've got it: Our message is being heard.

Take Medicaid pharmacy payment reform. NCPA's WIG – that's Wildly Important Goal – is to change the pharmacy payment model. That takes many forms – carving out the Medicaid prescription drug benefits, spread pricing prohibitions, changing PBM reporting requirements, setting reimbursement floors, and realizing compensation in Medicaid for patient services through enhanced services networks like CPESN®. So far, 27 bills dealing with this issue have been introduced in 15 states. These bills will save taxpayer dollars, and that matters to your neighbor, your aunt, and the man down the street.

We've been shining a relentless spotlight on PBM practices, and it's paying off. PBMs strategically have operated quietly, under the radar. Today, there's scrutiny – and frankly, outrage. And we're seeing the result of that: 211 bills introduced in 43 states. Those bills cover a variety of PBM-related issues, such as PBM licensure, fair audit provisions, PBM transparency and disclosure requirements, and patient protections. This kind of momentum means that PBMs are being forced to account for their practices. We'll keep shining that light and working to support our state partners on this important issue.

We believe that as America's most accessible health care professionals, pharmacists offer a level of service that's sorely needed by your neighbor, your aunt, and the man down the street. In 30 states, 96 bills have been introduced to expand what pharmacists can prescribe and provide to patients. These range from hormonal contraceptives, tobacco cessation products, immunizations, and point-of-care testing. Saving people time and money and making medical care easier to get is another way to affect the lives of your neighbor, your aunt, and the man down the street.

Here's another old saying: "Slow and steady wins the race." NCPA has kept a steady flame under these issues, and we've reached the boiling point. That steady heat, plus leadership from our state partners, is making things happen. It won't be easy but we're going to get there. It's personal for your neighbor, your aunt, and the man down the street. We keep telling their stories, and they'll lead to change, because all politics is truly local.





Montana Pharmacy Association  
PO Box 1569  
Helena, MT 59624

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### MPA Office

PO Box 1569, Helena, MT 59624  
Ph: (406) 449-3843 Fax: (406) 442-8018  
[info@rxmt.org](mailto:info@rxmt.org) • [www.rxmt.org](http://www.rxmt.org)

**Executive Director:** Stuart Doggett, Helena  
[stuart@montana.com](mailto:stuart@montana.com)

**Association Coordinator:** Suzanne Morgan,  
Helena, [smorgan@montana.com](mailto:smorgan@montana.com)

### Skaggs School of Pharmacy

32 Campus Drive, 340 Skaggs Building  
Missoula, MT 59812-1512  
Ph: (406) 243-4621

### Montana State Board of Pharmacy

301 S. Park Ave. -or- PO Box 200513  
Helena, MT 59620-0513  
Ph: (406) 841-2371  
[www.pharmacy.mt.gov](http://www.pharmacy.mt.gov)

**Executive Director:** Marcie Bough, PharmD  
[mbough@mt.gov](mailto:mbough@mt.gov)

### Calendar of Events

**March 29:** Montana Board of Pharmacy, Helena

**April 1:** Official ballots mailed to vote for MPA Board  
of Directors Nominations

**May 1:** Voting Ballots for MPA Board of Directors  
returned to MPA office

**May 30:** MPA Board of Directors Meeting at NW  
Convention

**June 1:** MPA General Membership Meeting at NW  
Convention

**June 28:** Nominations Open for MPA Annual Awards

**June 28:** Montana Board of Pharmacy, Helena

**September 24:** Nominations close for MPA Annual  
Awards

**September 27:** Montana Board of Pharmacy, Helena

#### **Continuing Education Offerings**

**Health-Systems Academy Spring Seminar  
(video conference)**

April 26-27 – Billings and Missoula, MT

#### **Northwest Pharmacy Conference**

May 30-June 2 – Coeur d'Alene, ID

#### **MPA Winter CE & Ski Meeting**

January 10-12, 2020 – Big Sky, MT