PHARMACISTS CAN FILL A WIDENING GAP IN HEALTHCARE

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROVIDE A CRITICAL LINK TO MAKE THAT POSSIBLE

90%
of Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy.

Patients visit their community pharmacist
12 times more
frequently than their primary care provider.*

Pharmacists are highly
trained & trusted
healthcare professionals.

We're working to ensure pharmacists - in their expanding roles - can be connected with other healthcare providers, payers and public health agencies to meet the growing need for healthcare services.

NCPDP™ FOUNDATION

WE SAW PHARMACISTS GREATLY EXPAND ACCESS TO COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINATIONS

The COVID-19 Pandemic exposed vulnerabilities of our healthcare system, which opened up new opportunities to close gaps in care and protect patients. Pharmacists stepped up to leverage their training, experience, and reputation as trusted health care professionals in our local communities to meet the dire need for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Since May of 2020, pharmacists have been providing COVID-19 testing and now are administering COVID-19 vaccinations, greatly increasing accessibility to both for patients across the United States. Pharmacies have made it possible for us to get these vital services close to home from trusted healthcare professionals. This access has been especially critical in rural and other underserved areas.

THERE'S MUCH MORE PHARMACISTS CAN DO TO IMPROVE OUR HEALTH OUTCOMES

In some places, pharmacists already provide some of the following services. More can…and must, to fill existing gaps in care and meet an increasing demand for healthcare services.

Manage medication therapies for an aging US population with more chronic conditions

Practice collaboratively with physicians; advise on medication therapies, coordinate care plans, protect patients from adverse drug reactions, identify social determinants of health

Monitor patient therapies when transitioning from hospital to home

Provide public health services for rural and at-risk populations

Mobilize quickly to provide neighborhood access to emergency health services in the event of disasters and epidemics

There is no question that pharmacists can and do impact the incidence of disease and prevent acute events. They provide services that improve our health, thereby driving down overall healthcare costs.

YOUR SUPPORT

In a world facing new health challenges every day, your support of the NCPDP Foundation has never been more important.

BEHIND THE SCENES HEALTH IT STANDARDS MADE IT POSSIBLE

Through the use of one of its existing and widely adopted health IT standards, NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs) made it possible for pharmacists to address the unique factors associated with electronically exchanging data required for ordering, administering, documenting and filing claims for COVID-19 tests and vaccines. NCPDP quickly adapted its interoperable industry standard and issued emergency guidance to pharmacists on how to facilitate the necessary exchange of data through the standard.

EXPANDING THE ROLE OF PHARMACISTS IS AN NCPDP FOUNDATION KEY INITIATIVE

The NCPDP Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization, is working to ensure that our pharmacists can be connected electronically for real-time, standardized exchange of data with physicians and other healthcare providers, payers and public health agencies. This standards-based connectivity is a critical link making it possible for pharmacists to function as valued members of our healthcare teams.

DATA STANDARDS ARE CRITICAL TO LINK PHARMACISTS TO THE BROADER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

NCPDP's data standards are essential to pharmacists' connectivity. The NCPDP Foundation funds research that validates the effectiveness of new and underused standards and how they enable pharmacists to provide us with better access to care and better care. Proof of value supports widespread adoption of the standards.

WE'RE WORKING TO INCREASE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS THAT HELP PHARMACISTS PROVIDE VITAL SERVICES

In 2020, the NCPDP Foundation funded a public service video to raise awareness of pharmacists using NCPDP standards-based emergency guidance to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

We recently awarded a $100,000 grant to demonstrate how the Pharmacist eCare Plan, a joint NCPDP/HL7 standard, can help pharmacists reduce hospital readmissions by collaborating to manage patient medications following a hospital stay. That research is underway by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy.

ACCELERATE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS

We need continuing proof of how data standards integrate pharmacists into the broader healthcare system for the benefit of patients. Together we can accelerate adoption of those standards.

*Haddock R. The expanding role of today's community pharmacists. https://www.fdsrx.com/expanding-role-community-pharmacists