

MAINE'S PHARMACISTS

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES



Pharmacists are a valued member of the healthcare team and data shows that there is a need for pharmacist-provided patient care services. The potential impact of implementing programs that provide coverage for these services is great, improving health equity and access to care.

Learn More!



QUALIFIED

Pharmacists are Highly Qualified Healthcare Providers



6+ YEARS

Courses focused on pharmacotherapy, patient education, disease management, and clinical decision-making.



LICENSURE

Pharmacists take the North America Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX) & Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE).



ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Many pharmacists complete Post-Graduate Residencies, Fellowships, and/or Board Certification in specialty areas.

As of 2004, all pharmacy school graduates earn the PharmD degree... a doctorate degree to reflect the increased complexity of pharmacotherapy and advanced training required for adequate provision of patient care.

Pharmacists are the Most Accessible Healthcare Professionals

ACCESSIBLE

1,390
Pharmacists
in Maine¹

89%

Americans live within 5 miles of a community pharmacy²

Annually, Americans visit their pharmacy **35 times** vs. 4 times at their primary care provider.³

Number of pharmacies is **15% higher** than number of provider's offices in communities where more than 30% of households live in poverty.⁴

TEST & TREAT

Pharmacists and pharmacies are increasingly offering this public health service of test and treat to promote prevention, early detection, and disease management. Patients are referred when appropriate.

- COVID
- Strep
- Flu
- RSV
- UTI
- STI
- H. pylori
- & others

200%
increase

Since May 2020, there has been a 200% increase in the # of pharmacies with CLIA/point of care waivers in the U.S., leading to more pharmacist accessibility for patient care services.⁵

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT



Approximately 50% of all adults in the U.S. have one or more chronic disease conditions ⁶



Chronic conditions account for over 85% of total U.S. health care costs ⁷



Saved for every \$1 spent on pharmacist service. ⁸

COVID-19

From February 2020 - November 2022, pharmacists in the U.S. provided more than



COVID-19 tests ⁹



COVID-19 Vaccinations ⁹

Engaging Pharmacists & Their Teams

Expanding the number of pharmacies with test-and-treat sites in medically underserved areas could increase access to COVID-19 treatment



INFLUENZA

Maine pharmacists are providing flu shots

TWICE the hours offered for giving immunizations vs. provider's offices ¹²



2022 Flu Season

Pharmacies have given **18.7 Million** flu shots

vs

10.7 Million given at provider's offices ¹¹



States now authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe antivirals based on a positive flu test. ¹³

Maine pharmacists should be authorized to do this too!

OPIOID CRISIS



80,000 Americans

died from an opioid overdose in 2021. ¹⁴

221

average deaths per day ¹⁵

46

States, including Maine, authorize pharmacists to administer naltrexone to patients. ¹⁶

Naloxone access laws that grant pharmacists direct authority to prescribe are associated with significant reductions in fatal overdoses.

HIV

Pharmacists have been identified by the CDC as key professionals in achieving one of the CDC's goals of ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. by preventing HIV infection.

States authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe PrEP. ¹⁷



States authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe PEP. ¹⁷



This information was developed through a collaboration between NASPA and APhA, with generous support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation.



Access our references at tinyurl.com/2022factsheet
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