

MASSACHUSETTS' 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.

ACCESSIBLE

Pharmacists are the Most Accessible Healthcare Professionals

7,480
Pharmacists
in Massachusetts¹

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

Massachusetts 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

Massachusetts 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



States, including Massachusetts, authorize pharmacists to administer naloxone to patients.

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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