



Office of the Surgeon General
Rockville, MD 20857
Dec 14, 2011

RADM Scott Giberson, R.Ph, Ph.C, NCPS-PP, M.P.H.
Chief Professional Officer, Pharmacy
U.S. Assistant Surgeon General

Dear RADM Giberson,

I wish to commend you and our Commissioned Corps colleagues, as well as publicly support *Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice. A Report to the U.S. Surgeon General, 2011.*

The report provides a thorough discussion of the comprehensive patient care services that pharmacists are currently providing through collaborative practice agreements (CPAs) in 43 states and in federal health care settings (e.g. IHS, VA, DOD).

Under CPAs, pharmacists work in collaboration with physicians and primary care clinicians to help patients, particularly those with chronic conditions, manage their medication regimens by:

- Performing patient assessments and developing therapeutic plans;
- Utilizing authorities to initiate, adjust, or discontinue medications;
- Ordering, interpreting and monitoring appropriate laboratory tests;
- Providing care coordination and other healthcare services for wellness and prevention; and
- Developing partnerships with patients for ongoing and follow-up care.

The report demonstrates through evidence-based outcomes, that many expanded pharmacy practice models (implemented in collaboration with physicians or as part of a health team) improve patient and health system outcomes and optimize primary care access and delivery.

Specifically, the report supports the following case:

1. Health leadership and policy makers should further explore ways to optimize the role of pharmacists to deliver a variety of patient-centered care and disease prevention, in collaboration with physicians or as part of the healthcare team. These collaborative pharmacy practice models can be implemented to manage and prevent disease, improve health care delivery and address some of the current demands on the health care system.

2. Utilization of pharmacists as an essential part of the healthcare team to prevent and manage disease in collaboration with other clinicians can improve quality, contain costs, and increase access to care.
3. Recognition of pharmacists as health care providers, clinicians and an essential part of the health care team is appropriate given the level of care they provide in many health care settings.
4. Compensation models, reflective of the range of care provided by pharmacists, are needed to sustain these patient oriented, quality improvement services. This may require further evolution of legislative or policy language and additional payment reform considerations.

This report provides the evidence health leaders and policy makers need to support evidence-based models of cost effective patient care that utilizes the expertise and contributions of our nations' pharmacists as an essential part of the healthcare team.

I look forward to working with you and your team as you implement this report and take its findings to the wider professional pharmacy community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regina Benjamin MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA

U.S. Surgeon General

VADM USPHS