The Current State

Patients benefit when medications are used appropriately. Improper medication use adversely impacts patient outcomes, costs, and the health care system as a whole and puts patients at risk. The facts:

- The United States spends almost $300 billion annually on medication problems including medication non-adherence.
- Chronic diseases account for $2.6 trillion in health care expenditures and 91% of all prescriptions filled.
- Almost 50% of people prescribed medications for chronic diseases do not take their medications correctly.
- Nearly 70% of Americans are on at least one prescription drug and over 50% of Americans are on at least two prescription drugs.
- The number of Americans ages 65 years and older is projected to increase 36% by 2020. On average, adults 65 to 69 years old take almost 14 prescriptions per year and those 80 to 84 years old take 18 prescriptions per year.

Patients across the United States are receiving better care and achieving better outcomes from pharmacists’ patient care services. Examples of pharmacists’ services include: coordination of medications during care transitions, comprehensive medication reviews and monitoring, chronic disease prevention and management, wellness services, and patient education.

A Solution

Pharmacists with their medication expertise are uniquely positioned to combat issues plaguing our health care system. Because patients and health care providers need to be able to access pharmacists’ services, the American Pharmacists Association seeks provider status for pharmacists—an effort that includes requesting:

- Payers and policy makers to recognize pharmacists as health care providers who improve access, quality, and value of health care.
- Patients to have improved access to pharmacists’ services.

The Outcome

By including pharmacists as part of the patient’s health care team:

- Patients benefit—enhanced satisfaction, care, and outcomes
- Communities benefit—healthier population, increased access to immunizations
- The health care system benefits—quality, access, and costs are improved

Provider status for pharmacists will result in a team-based patient-centered health care system providing improved care and value.

For more information visit: http://www.pharmacist.com/providerstatusrecognition