

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## House Health Care Reform Bill Would Expand Patient Access to Medication Therapy Management Services

**Washington, DC** - The pharmacy profession, as represented by the organizations listed below, welcomes the inclusion of medication therapy management (MTM) services in *The Affordable Health Care for America Act* (H.R. 3962), sponsored by Congressman John Dingell (D-MI), that would enhance medication use in our health care system.

Specifically, the bill would establish a program to provide grants to eligible entities to implement MTM services provided by licensed pharmacists, as a part of a collaborative, multidisciplinary, inter-professional approach to the treatment of chronic diseases – such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes – for targeted individuals.

The legislation would also establish a medical home pilot program through which pharmacists, working collaboratively with other providers, would deliver MTM services to improve the quality of care and reduce overall cost in the treatment of chronic diseases.

The legislation's definition of MTM services is consistent with the *MTM in Pharmacy Practice: Core Elements of an MTM Service Model* endorsed by the pharmacy profession to help improve therapeutic outcomes, reduce medication errors and adverse drug events, enhance coordination of care with other health professionals, to improve patients' quality of life, and reduce overall healthcare costs.

The U.S. healthcare system currently incurs more than \$177 billion annually in mostly avoidable health costs to treat adverse drug events from the inappropriate use of medications.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the treatment of chronic disease costs our health system \$1.3 trillion annually<sup>2</sup> - about 75 cents of every healthcare dollar.<sup>3</sup>

By working collaboratively with physicians and other health care providers, pharmacists help patients better understand their medications and how to get the full benefit of their medication therapy. Pharmacists are the key to solving our nation's medication use crisis.

MTM services provided by pharmacists, working with physicians and other healthcare providers, helps improve therapeutic outcomes, reduces medication errors and adverse drug events, enhances coordination of care, improves patients' overall quality of life, and reduces overall healthcare costs.

The fourteen coalition members are:

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)  
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)  
American Pharmacist Association (APhA)  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)  
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP)  
International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP)  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)  
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)  
Rite Aid Corporation  
Safety Net Hospitals for Pharmaceutical Access (SNHPA)  
Walgreens

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*Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is a national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 111 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 5,500 faculty, 50,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 3,900 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education.*

*The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) is a professional and scientific society that provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources enabling clinical pharmacists to achieve excellence in practice and research. ACCP's membership is composed of practitioners, scientists, educators, administrators, students, residents, fellows, and others committed to excellence in clinical pharmacy and patient pharmacotherapy.*

*The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to improve health care for all. The Academy's 5,700 members develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit. More news and information about AMCP can be obtained on its website, at [www.amcp.org](http://www.amcp.org). The Academy will observe its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009.*

*The [American Pharmacists Association](http://www.apha.org), founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents more than 63,000 practicing pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in advancing the profession. APhA, dedicated to helping all pharmacists improve medication use and advance patient care, is the first-established and largest association of pharmacists in the United States. APhA members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, health systems, long-term care facilities, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and the uniformed services.*

*The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists is the international professional association that provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to advance the practice of senior care pharmacy. ASCP's 8,000+ members manage and improve drug therapy and improve the quality of life of geriatric patients wherever they reside including nursing facilities, sub acute care and assisted living communities, psychiatric hospitals, hospice programs, and in their own homes.*

*For more than 60 years, ASHP has helped pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems improve medication use and enhance patient safety. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in inpatient, outpatient, home-care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students. For more information about the wide array of ASHP activities and the many ways in which pharmacists help people make the best use of medicines, visit ASHP's Web site, [www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org), or its consumer Web site, [www.SafeMedication.com](http://www.SafeMedication.com).*

*The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists provides representation, leadership, education and advocacy to over 1000 member pharmacists. CPNP's members apply their specialized clinical knowledge in a variety of healthcare settings and positions to achieve recovery and improved quality of life for those individuals suffering from psychiatric and neurologic disorders. [www.cpn.org](http://www.cpn.org)*

*The International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP) is a non-profit association founded in 1991 to protect, promote and advance the art and science of the pharmacy compounding profession. We represent more than 1,900 pharmacists and technicians who are committed to the safe and ethical practice of pharmacy compounding. In addition, we represent more than 67,000 patients, physicians, nurse practitioners and veterinarians through our ally grassroots organization, Patients & Professionals for Customized Care (P2C2). We are committed to ensuring the rights of physicians to prescribe, of pharmacists to prepare, and of patients to take customized medications that meet their unique, individual health needs.*

*The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders nationwide, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPA).*

*The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets, and mass merchants with pharmacies. Its more than 160 chain member companies include regional chains with a minimum of four stores to national companies. NACDS members also include more than 1,000 suppliers of pharmacy and front-end products and 85 international members representing 28 countries. Chains operate 39,000 pharmacies, and employ a total of more than 2.5 million employees, including 118,000 pharmacists. They fill more than 2.5 billion prescriptions yearly, and have annual sales of over \$750 billion. For more information about NACDS, visit [www.NACDS.org](http://www.NACDS.org).*

*The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA®) represents America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 22,700 independent community pharmacies, pharmacy franchises, and chains. Together they represent an \$88 billion health-care marketplace, employ over 65,000 pharmacists, and dispense over 40% of all retail prescriptions. To learn more go to [www.ncpanet.org](http://www.ncpanet.org).*

*Rite Aid Corporation (NYSE: RAD) is one of the nation's leading drugstore chains with more than 4,800 stores in 31 states and the District of Columbia with fiscal 2009 annual sales of more than \$26.3 billion. Information about Rite Aid, including corporate background and press releases, is available through the company's Web site at <http://www.riteaid.com>.*

*SNHPA is a national association of more than 500 hospitals that, based on the high percentage of indigent patients they serve, are qualified to participate in the federal drug discount program administered under § 340B of the Public Health Service Act.*

*Walgreens ([www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com)) is the nation's largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2009 sales of \$63 billion. The company operates 7,045 drugstores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Walgreens provides the most convenient access to consumer goods and services and cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services in America through its retail drugstores, Walgreens Health Services division and Walgreens Health and Wellness division. Walgreens Health Services assists pharmacy patients and prescription drug and medical plans through Walgreens Health Initiatives Inc. (a pharmacy benefit manager), Walgreens Mail Service Inc., Walgreens Home Care Inc., Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy LLC and SeniorMed LLC (a pharmacy provider to long-term care facilities). Walgreens Health and Wellness Division includes Take Care Health Systems, the largest and most comprehensive manager of worksite health and wellness centers and in-store convenient care clinics, with more than 700 locations throughout the country.*

1. Ernst FR, Grizzle AJ. Drug-related morbidity and mortality: updating the cost-of-illness model. *J Am Pharm Assoc.* 2001;41:192-9
2. Milken Institute Report – October 2007
3. Report from the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease – May 2008