



## TEXAS PHARMACY ASSOCIATION 2010-2012 STATE PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

*These are the adopted public policies of the Texas Pharmacy Association for 2010-2012. Included are both the highest priorities as well as other priorities of importance to Texas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies. However, this list does not identify all issues that will affect the Association's membership or that will be addressed by the TPA advocacy staff during the legislative sessions of the state and federal government or by activities of state and federal health regulatory agencies.*

### HIGHEST POLICY PRIORITIES

#### **I. FUNDING**

- A. Oppose reductions in the current Medicaid fee structure for pharmacy services and in Medicaid reimbursement to pharmacists and pharmacies.
- B. Support efforts to address the anticipated state budget shortfall that assure minimal financial impact to Texas pharmacists and pharmacies.
- C. Monitor and respond accordingly to the concept under consideration regarding the "Carve In" vs. the current "Carve-Out" policy of the Texas Medicaid Drug Vendor Program.
- D. Support adequate state and local government funding of Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and other indigent health care programs.
- E. Support expansion of eligibility in the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program to the maximum levels allowed by federal law.

#### **II. SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

- A. Protect existing statutory scope of practice guidelines regarding dispensing of pharmaceuticals and immunizations. Support enhanced Medication Therapy Management and Drug Therapy Management through a modified scope of practice concept. Promote MTM for improved patient care and cost savings. Continue to encourage state agencies, legislators and employers on the benefits of MTM.
- B. Support efforts to implement a Medicaid medical home that includes pharmacists.
- C. Explore the statutory ability of Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners to practice as physician extenders within parameters and guidelines developed in conjunction with the Texas Medical Association.
- D. Support broader generic and therapeutic substitution by pharmacists with collaborative care and appropriate patient safeguards in place.
- E. Monitor E-Prescribing activities and initiate efforts to develop pharmacy-based guidelines.
- F. Monitor Electronic Medical Records (EMR) / Electronic Health Records (EHR) activities and initiate efforts to develop pharmacy-based guidelines.
- G. Support efforts to establish pharmacist services and payment mechanisms that encourage pharmacist involvement in assessing and recommending drug therapies providing optimal therapeutic outcomes.

#### **III. TEXAS STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY**

- A. Support efforts to move the regulatory oversight authority of compounding OTC drugs from the Texas Department of Health Services to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.
- B. Support efforts to move the state's drug monitoring program from the Texas Department of Public Safety to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.
- C. Initiate and support efforts to add a designated pharmacy technician position on the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

### OTHER POLICY PRIORITIES

#### **I. Consumer and Patient Issues**

- A. Enhance the role of the personal pharmacist as an integral component to *Smart, Healthy Living*.
- B. Support efforts to reduce pharmaceuticals in the environment and to facilitate unused drug disposal programs that assure increased adherence, enhanced safety and minimized diversion. Assure that legislative activities, if any, do not negatively impact the effectiveness of private, voluntary drug collection programs.
- C. Protect the confidentiality of patient information and medical records.
- D. Support the development of a pharmacy patient bill of rights.

**II. Emergency Readiness & Public Health**

- A. Collaborate with state agencies to assist pharmacists and pharmacies regarding disaster readiness and public health support.

**III. Insurance**

- A. Ensure that pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) are monitored/regulated regarding prompt payment, transparency and fair audit processes. Address concerns with preferred drug lists, confidentiality issues, rebate policies and requirements for prior-authorizations. Support additional legislative mandates if needed.
- B. Ensure that community pharmacies have comprehensive mail order parity.
- C. Protect current favorable legislative requirements and/or advance beneficial legislative changes during the Texas Department of Insurance sunset review legislative process.
- D. Protect the formulary/fees for the Worker's Compensation program by maintaining current levels or minimizing fee reductions.
- E. Require insurers and HMOs to provide current, accurate information to enrollees on the selection of health care providers and the enrollees' personal responsibility for payment of services.
- F. Require insurers and HMOs to report on an annual basis certain financial and utilization data and make public such data on the Texas Department of Insurance website in a consumer-friendly format.

**IV. Taxes**

- A. Monitor the legislative debate of the state's tax structure.
- B. Oppose statutory changes that would negatively affect the tax liabilities of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies, unless such changes primarily result in an adequate increase in health care coverage and/or in improved payments to pharmacists and pharmacies that are fair, equitable and commensurate with the additional tax liabilities.

**V. Uninsured and Under-Insured**

- A. Collaborate with government, business and other health care providers in the development and implementation of a future health care system that expands access to affordable and high-quality health care services to all individuals in Texas.
- B. Support public policies that reduce the number of uninsured and underinsured in Texas and that enhance the ability of these individuals to obtain basic and affordable quality health care coverage.
- C. Reduce the number of uninsured and under-insured through tax or other incentives for individuals and/or businesses.
- D. Support efforts to establish pharmacist services and payment mechanisms that encourage pharmacist involvement in assessing and recommending drug therapies providing optimal therapeutic outcomes.

**VI. Workforce**

- A. Protect and/or support efforts to increase funding for the six Texas colleges of pharmacy. Monitor the use of state funds directed to the education of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.
- B. Oppose efforts to modify current pharmacists to technicians direct supervision ratios.