



National Pharmacy Organizations  
Health Policy Stakeholder Meeting Template  
December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008

In order to accurately capture and understand your organization's priorities for health care reform and other health care policy issues, we ask that you briefly detail your priorities as follows:

- Health policy priorities/goals in the short term
  - Enhance policymakers understanding of the potential contributions of pharmacists' services to overall patient health, quality of care, and the health care delivery system.
  - Identify opportunities in the health care reform process to incorporate pharmacists' services to help improve health care quality, better manage chronic disease, and maximum the outcomes of medication use.
- Health policy priorities/goals in the long term
  - Improve the use and outcomes of medications through better integration of pharmacists into the health care team.
  - Maximize medication therapy through expanded access to pharmacists' services, including by increasing pharmacists' access to patients' medical information through standardized, interoperable technology.
  - Designate pharmacists as health care providers.
- The mechanisms for achieving the goal (i.e., executive order, regulation, guidelines, policy change or legislation)
  - Under health care reform, we are eager to explore opportunities to improve medication use by expanding availability of pharmacists' services. This may require new legislation and regulations. Some of these functions can be enhanced by building on existing health care programs, such as Medicare Parts B and D and Medicaid.
- Any budgetary or appropriations concerns or impact
  - Evidence suggests that pharmacists can help improve the use of medications and reduce the incidence of adverse reactions or other medication-related events. This can reduce costs for hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and other health care interventions. Pharmacists can also contribute to improving public health by increasing vaccinations.
- Any other HHS related issue
  - Federal and state health care programs already exist that recognize the health care and quality improvement roles of pharmacists, and can be used as the building blocks for new initiatives and to enhance existing initiatives. For example, Medicare Part D covers medication therapy management services, certain Medicaid programs cover pharmacists' services, and pharmacists are required to conduct a monthly drug regimen review for persons in a LTC facility.