TPA Receives CPF Grant to Study Integration of Community Pharmacists in Primary Care

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA) has been awarded a grant from the Community Pharmacy Foundation (CPF) to explore the role of community pharmacists in providing Annual Wellness Visits (AWV), Initial Preventive Physical Exams (IPPE), and Chronic Care Management (CCM) services incident to a provider. TPA Executive Fellow, Aaron Garst, PharmD, will serve as the primary investigator for this grant, with support from TPA Director of Pharmacy Practice Initiatives, Lucy Adkins, PharmD. Through the integration of a community pharmacist into a provider's office, coupled with the successful implementation of a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement (CPPA) and delivery of pharmacist-provided patient care services, this project will seek to demonstrate increased access and improved health outcomes for patients, as well as establish a blueprint for this model for care and potential new revenue stream for prescribers and community pharmacists.

Primary components of this project:

**ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ANNOUNCEMENT**
- AWV  Annual Wellness Visit
- CCM  Chronic Care Management
- CMS  Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- CPF  Community Pharmacy Foundation
- CPPA Collaborative Pharmacy Practice Agreement
- IPPE Initial Preventive Physical Exam
- TPA Tennessee Pharmacists Association
1. Create a model for integration of a community pharmacist into a prescriber's office;
2. Develop and implement a CPPA between the community pharmacist and the prescriber to allow for the delivery of patient care services;
3. Deliver yearly AWV and/or IPPE services;
4. Deliver CCM services to enrolled patients on a monthly basis; and
5. Create a detailed implementation guide for CPF with tools and resources to assist community pharmacists in providing services through this model of care.

Complete Grant Description

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created Chronic Care Management Services to incentivize and fund non-face-to-face care coordination for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions. Chronic Care Management is defined as at least 20 minutes per month of clinical staff time that involves managing a patient’s care and is directed by a physician or other qualified healthcare professional. CMS provided an exception to incident-to-billing requirements, permitting general supervision instead of direct supervision, which allows a community pharmacist to provide CCM services in a community pharmacy not located in a prescriber's office. The objectives for this program are to provide community pharmacies with a new revenue stream based on CCM services, integrate community pharmacists into care teams located within advanced alternative payment models, and increase the number of community pharmacists in collaborative practice agreements. The overarching goal of this program is to demonstrate that community pharmacists are indispensable to the care team and vital to successfully meet quality measures.

The complete grant description may be found HERE.