

# TENNESSEE'S PHARMACISTS

## IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES



Tennessee Pharmacists Association  
★ For Patients ★ For Pharmacists ★ For Tennessee

Pharmacists are essential members of the healthcare team and evidence clearly shows the growing need for pharmacist-provided patient care services. To guarantee equitable access to this vital care, both public and private health plans must cover pharmacists' patient care services.



### QUALIFIED

#### HIGHLY QUALIFIED HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



##### EDUCATION

6-8 years of education including pharmacotherapy, disease management, and clinical decision-making



##### CLINICAL TRAINING

At least 1,740 hours of clinical practice experience focused on high-quality patient care in a variety of healthcare settings



##### ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Many complete post-graduate residencies, fellowships, and/or board certifications in various specialty areas

All current pharmacy school graduates earn the PharmD degree, a doctorate degree reflecting the advanced pharmacotherapy knowledge and comprehensive patient care training essential for providing high quality pharmacist services, a requirement that has been in place **since 2004**.

### ACCESSIBLE

#### MOST ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

**7,420**  
Pharmacists  
in Tennessee<sup>1</sup>

**12,350**  
Pharmacy  
Technicians  
in Tennessee<sup>1</sup>

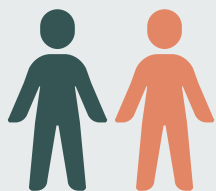
**89%**

Americans live within 5 miles  
of a community pharmacy.<sup>2</sup>

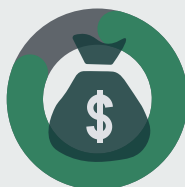
Number of pharmacies is  
**15% higher**  
than number of  
provider's offices  
in communities where more than  
30% of households live in poverty.<sup>3</sup>

### PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

#### VITAL TO IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH



Approximately 50% of  
all adults in the U.S.  
have one or more  
chronic disease  
conditions.<sup>4</sup>



Chronic conditions  
account for over 85%  
of total U.S. health  
care costs.<sup>4</sup>



Saved for every \$1  
spent on pharmacist  
service.<sup>5</sup>

## COVERAGE OF SERVICES

Pharmacists' clinical services are **rarely** covered under the medical benefit by **health plans**. This creates **barriers** to patients using their health insurance to receive care from pharmacists.

**\$9.64**

return on investment for every \$1 when pharmacists are paid for providing various patient care services.<sup>6</sup>

All health plans, public and private, **must** cover the services pharmacists provide to ensure patient access.

## TEST & TREAT

**Pharmacy-based point-of-care testing and treatment services provide prevention and early detection for minor health conditions.**

**30**

States now authorize pharmacists to directly order and administer CLIA-waived tests.

States now authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe treatment pursuant to a CLIA-waived test.

**13**

### Common Pharmacy-Based CLIA-Waived Tests\*

COVID-19  
Strep

Flu  
RSV

UTI  
STI

HIV  
& more

\*Abbreviation details available on references page.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Tennessee pharmacists are independently prescribing vaccines.

Pharmacies offer **TWICE** the operating hours for giving immunizations vs. provider's offices<sup>7</sup>

### 2023-24 Flu Season

Pharmacies gave  
**37.6 Million**  
flu shots

**vs**

**25.5 Million**  
given at provider's offices<sup>8</sup>

**27**

States now authorize pharmacists to **directly prescribe** and administer vaccines to patients.

## OPIOID USE DISORDER

**81,000 Americans**  
died from an opioid overdose in 2023.<sup>9</sup>

**222**  
average deaths  
per day<sup>9</sup>

**13**

States authorize pharmacists to prescribe medications for opioid use disorder.

**Naloxone access laws that grant pharmacists direct authority to prescribe are associated with significant reductions in fatal overdoses.**

## HIV PREVENTION

**Pharmacists have been identified by the White House as key professionals in achieving one of the CDC's goals of ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. by preventing HIV infection.**

States authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications.

**16**

**19**

States authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) medications.

This information was developed through a collaboration between NASPA and APhA, with generous support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation.



Access our references at  
[tinyurl.com/2024factsheet](https://tinyurl.com/2024factsheet)  
Or scan this QR code

