



2025 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES AND POSITIONS

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association's Public Affairs Committee and Board of Directors established the following legislative priorities and positions for 2025.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION
340B PROTECTIONS	By amending Tenn. Code Ann. 56-7-3119, TPA looks to safeguard the 340B drug pricing program by ensuring that specific stakeholders involved in the program cannot impose discriminatory practices or additional restrictions on covered entities or their contracted pharmacies. This protection is vital to maintaining the program's integrity, allowing eligible healthcare providers to access discounted medications without undue barriers. The legislation reinforces equitable access to affordable drugs, ensuring that vulnerable populations continue to receive the necessary care.
PAYMENT FOR SERVICES CLEAN-UP	TPA will look to amend various areas of Tennessee law to help maintain clear guidance on payment for pharmacist services and pharmacist scope of practice. By amending Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 53-10-104 and 53-10-105, TPA will seek to properly reference expanded pharmacist authorities that were granted in 2024 under § 63-10-204, thereby ensuring pharmacists can fully utilize their enhanced scope of practice. Additionally, amendments to provider antidiscrimination laws are proposed to justify Medicare Advantage payment opportunities for pharmacist services, reinforcing their role as essential healthcare providers. The legislation also targets the removal of barriers within Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-10-219, facilitating greater participation in the state's hormonal contraceptive law, thereby improving patient access to crucial care.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION
PROMPT PAYMENT, DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY AGAINST PBM PRACTICES	Legislative action is needed in Tennessee to strengthen the enforcement of prompt payment and disciplinary measures against pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Despite the enforcement powers granted to the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) through 2022's Public Chapter 1070, PBMs have shown limited compliance with the law. Clarifying the TDCI's authority to discipline PBMs effectively is crucial to ensure alignment with legal requirements. Additionally, pharmacies must be granted the ability to conduct batch appeals, and timely reimbursement for medications and pharmacist-provided services by commercial insurance plans must be mandated to support pharmacies' financial viability and ability to provide patient care.
AMENDMENTS TO THE RIGHT TO KNOW ACT	Legislative action is needed in Tennessee to amend Tenn. Code Ann. § 66-32-105 to allow health care providers convicted of serious misdemeanors to have their records expunged after successfully completing a recovery network program for substance use disorder. This amendment would support rehabilitation and reintegration, offering health care professionals a second chance while ensuring that those committed to recovery can continue to contribute to the health care workforce.
STATE LEGISLATIVE POSITION	DESCRIPTION
COMPOUNDING PRACTICE	The compounding of medications for patient care has been an integral component of pharmacy practice. TPA supports establishing standards of practice for compounding services and preserving the authority of the Board of Pharmacy to regulate compounding practices in Tennessee.

STATE LEGISLATIVE POSITION	DESCRIPTION
PREP STATEWIDE PROTOCOL	Utilize a statewide protocol for pharmacists in HIV PrEP as a set of guidelines that pharmacists must follow to independently distribute a specific drug, such as PrEP. Several states that have authorized independent pharmacist prescribing of PrEP have done so through a statewide protocol.
WHITE BAGGING	Drug distribution models known as white bagging and brown bagging undermine hospitals' patient safety protections and jeopardize patient care. These practices allow insurers, rather than the patient's pharmacist and health care provider, to determine when, where, and how drugs are purchased, prepared, and administered to patients. Despite patient safety concerns, insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) increasingly require hospitals to administer white-bagged and brown-bagged drugs, which they cannot confirm have been stored and prepared safely. TPA will collaborate with other health care organizations to find meaningful resolutions to white bagging practices in the state, which complement other PBM legislation advocated for by TPA.
PHARMACISTS ROLE IN MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER	Tennessee continues to grapple with the impact of the opioid epidemic. As a member of the interprofessional health care team, pharmacists use pain management plans to ensure that patients' pain is appropriately managed, work with other providers to select the best possible therapies, monitor those therapies, educate the patient and other members of the team, and help identify the signs of addiction. Congress recently eliminated the X-waiver, a federal barrier to pharmacists prescribing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). With state law limiting the pharmacist's role in managing MOUDs, TPA will advocate for better utilization of pharmacists to improve access to MOUDs.

STATE REGULATORY POSITION	DESCRIPTION
MODERNIZATION OF COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENT REGULATIONS	While Tennessee pharmacists can enter into formal collaborative pharmacy practice agreements (CPPA), the current regulations are more restrictive than the legislation that enacted such arrangements. TPA will advocate to the appropriate regulatory boards to modernize the regulations to assist the evolving needs within pharmacy practice settings to maximize the expertise of the pharmacists operating within a CPPA.
EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PBM REFORM	In 2022, the state of Tennessee passed and adopted Public Chapter 1070 to regulate pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). As the law took effect on January 1, 2023, TPA will continue to work closely with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) and our members to ensure PBMs abide by the law.
ADVANCED ROLES OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS	In 2022, the state of Tennessee adopted Public Chapter 812 to modernize the definition of pharmacy technicians to provide for the evolving and advancing role of pharmacy technicians. TPA will advocate to the Board of Pharmacy to see the adoption of regulations for such advanced roles, including immunization administration, product verification, and provision of a CLIA-waived test.