

PHARMACISTS: AN INDISPENSABLE RESOURCE

For many patients, pharmacists are an accessible and easily approachable health care professional. Currently, there are over 9,000 pharmacists in Tennessee working in a variety of settings. Pharmacists can help patients understand their prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) products, work directly with physicians and other prescribers in order to suggest appropriate drug therapy, perform medication therapy management (MTM) services, and many other activities to help Tennesseans live a healthy life.

PHARMACISTS PROVIDE ACCESS TO CARE

On May 1, 2024, Public Chapter 824 was signed into law and provided an opportunity for pharmacists to directly furnish medications for a variety of disease state and medication classes. These services can augment traditional medication distribution services conducted by pharmacists and other pharmacy professionals.



PROBLEM NEEDING TO BE ADDRESSED

With Public Chapter 824, certain areas of the Tennessee Annotated Code did not completely reference this additional way for pharmacists to provide healthcare services. Therefore SB 569/HB 693 will ensure there are no barriers for pharmacists to provide services and properly be compensated for such services if the pharmacist is credentialed and contracted with third party payers to do so.

HOW WILL SB 569/HB 693 HELP?

- Ensure pharmacists are properly recognized for such services in all areas of Tennessee law to reduce any risk for audit when providing such services.
- Clarify that pharmacists are considered eligible providers of such services to receive compensation for services when properly credentialed and contracted with third party payers.
- Revise current regulations to allow pharmacists to be compensated for counseling and furnishing hormonal contraceptives through the statewide order for such services.

WHAT DOES SB 569/HB 693 DO?

- Amend sections of the Tennessee Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Title 53 – Chapter 10) to properly reference pharmacist authorities granted in 2024 by Public Chapter 824.
- Amend sections of the Pharmacy Practice Act (Title 63-Chapter 10) to remove barriers that have prevented pharmacists from scheduling consultations with patients to access their medication needs and bill for such services when the pharmacist is properly credentialed and contracted with third party payers.
- Clarify in the Tennessee provider antidiscrimination laws that pharmacists are eligible to be compensated for services when properly credentialed and contracted with third party payers.