



The Pharmacist's Role in Medicare Medication Therapy Management Services

The launch of the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit in January 2006 gave the nation's older adults improved access to medications. The program also requires participating insurers to develop medication therapy management services (MTMS) for certain beneficiaries. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services stated that it expects MTMS to *"evolve and become a cornerstone of the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit."*

The Part D benefit continues to develop since its launch, but the benefits of pharmacist-provided patient care services are already evident.

Pharmacists working closely with older adults can help them avoid dangerous and costly medication-use problems. Evidence shows that MTMS reduces the use of unnecessary physician and hospital services by reducing adverse health events and ultimately total health costs.

MTMS are not only for Medicare beneficiaries. MTMS programs are designed to optimize the benefits of prescribed drugs, improve medication use, reduce the risk of adverse drug events and drug interactions, and increase patient adherence to prescribed regimens.

MTMS programs include the following pharmacist-provided services according to a patient's individual needs:

- Performing or obtaining necessary assessments of the patient's health status;
- Formulating a medication treatment plan: selecting, initiating, modifying or administering medication therapy;
- Monitoring and evaluating the patient's response to therapy, including safety and effectiveness;
- Performing a comprehensive medication review to identify, resolve and prevent medication-related problems, including adverse drug events;
- Documenting the care delivered and communicating essential information to the patient's other primary care providers;
- Providing verbal education and training designed to enhance patient understanding and appropriate use of his or her medications;
- Providing information, support services, and resources designed to enhance patient adherence with his or her therapy; and
- Coordinating and integrating medication therapy management services within the broader healthcare-management services being provided to the patient.

States that encourage pharmacist-provided MTMS not only see improvements in their citizens' health, but also savings on overall healthcare costs. By informing patients and their prescribers of possible adverse effects and/or drug interactions, pharmacists keep their patients healthy and safe – as well as avoid unnecessary costs from complications or hospitalizations. Pharmacists are ready to help your state pharmaceutical assistance program improve medication use for all your citizens.



The Alliance for Pharmaceutical Care is a consortium of nine national organizations working together to educate the public, policy makers and other key decision makers about the important role that pharmacists play in the ever-evolving healthcare system.

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