Vision: The vision of Pharmacist Provider Status in Wisconsin is to ensure every patient in Wisconsin has sustainable access to pharmacist provided care.

Mission: The mission of Pharmacist Provider Status is to add licensed pharmacists to the insurance list of covered patient care providers which would allow pharmacists to enroll with insurance companies and directly bill/receive payment for patient care services.

Initial Goal: The initial goal of Pharmacist Provider Status is to pass legislation that requires Medicaid to add licensed pharmacists to the list of covered Medicaid patient care providers. This would add “pharmacists” to the list which currently already includes Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwives, Chiropractors, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, etc. Medicaid patient care providers are allowed to bill and receive payment through the medical benefit.

Patient Impact: Pharmacist provided care will become sustainable, thereby improving patient access to care and clinical outcomes.

Pharmacist Scope Impact: None. Pharmacist Provider Status does not change the scope of practice for pharmacists.

Medicaid Enrollment Requirements: It is proposed that pharmacist licensure in good standing be the only credential required to enroll as a Medicaid provider.

Other States: States have approached Pharmacist Provider Status in different ways. Some states, like California, have limited services for which pharmacists can bill. Other states, like Washington and Tennessee, cover any service within a pharmacist’s scope of practice. Additionally, some states require special licensure or certifications to bill, while others allow any licensed pharmacist to bill. Every state, like Wisconsin, has recognized the importance of patient access to pharmacist-provided care.

Short-Term and Long-term Impacts: Short term, a pharmacist would need to take steps to enroll directly with Medicaid to become a covered provider as well as set up processes to bill/receive payment. Existing infrastructure for patient care delivery may be used or new infrastructure may need to be developed depending on current practice models. Long-term, the ability for pharmacists to enroll as a provider will allow sustainable practice models, thereby increasing patient access to care and improving clinical outcomes.
Financial Impact:

- Approximately 80% of disease prevention and control occurs through medication use; however, up to 50% of patients do not take their medications as prescribed.\(^1\) Nonadherence along with suboptimal prescribing, medication administration, and diagnosis is estimated to account for $290 billion per year in avoidable medical spending. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to improve medication use as 75% of medication problems are related to gaps in care.\(^2\)

- Studies of the pharmacists embedded in primary care clinics consistently show a strong return on investment and have been endorsed by numerous stakeholders (e.g., Patient-Centered Primary Collaborative (PCPCC), American Medical Association (AMA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Family Physicians, Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan, The Advisory Board, etc.).

- Aside from the direct cost savings seen when pharmacists provide clinical interventions, studies have also found there to be increased access to primary care services, time saved by non-pharmacist providers for each patient visit, decreased hospital and emergency department readmission rates, and increased patient satisfaction when pharmacists work with physicians and provide clinical services.\(^3,4\)

Key Messages: Pharmacist Provider status will improve patient access to care, enhance clinical outcomes, and decrease costs.

The Ask: Patients need your support! What will you do to advocate for Pharmacist Provider Status with your colleagues, legislators, and professional organizations?

References: