

## Utilizing Pharmacists' Clinical Services

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### ASHP Urges Congress to:

Include pharmacists as non-physician providers under Medicare Part B.

### Why Pharmacists' Medication Therapy Management Services (MTM) Are So Important:

- The U.S. health care system currently incurs more than \$177 billion annually in mostly avoidable health costs to treat adverse drug events from the inappropriate use of medications. In addition, the treatment of chronic disease costs our health care system \$1.3 trillion annually — about 75 cents of every healthcare dollar.
- Medicare beneficiaries are a particularly vulnerable population who tend to have multiple chronic conditions and take multiple medications.
- MTM services provided by pharmacists, working with physicians and other health care providers, help improve therapeutic outcomes, reduce medication errors and adverse drug events, enhance coordination of care, improve patients' overall quality of life, and reduce overall health care costs.
- MTM services include:
  - Formulating a medication treatment plan,
  - Monitoring and evaluating the patient's response to therapy,
  - Performing a comprehensive medication review to identify, resolve and prevent medication-related problems, and
  - Coordinating and integrating MTM services within the broader health care management services being provided to the patient.

### How Congress Can Help

- Make pharmacists non-physician providers under Medicare, thus enabling them to provide MTM to services to all Medicare beneficiaries that need it, not just those eligible for MTM under the Part D benefit.