

Provider Status Elevator Speech

Suggested Talking Points

Introduce yourself: Hi, my name is (insert name) and I am currently a (insert position) at (insert workplace or school) in (insert city, state).

1. Are pharmacists considered healthcare providers?

1. Pharmacists serve their communities not only by dispensing medications but also by providing clinical services, including recommending therapy as part of healthcare teams, ensuring treatments are safe and well-tolerated, educating patients, managing chronic conditions, and providing comprehensive medication reviews. In many cases, these are the same services a formally recognized provider would deliver.
2. Despite providing these services, pharmacists currently are not recognized as healthcare providers by the federal government. Since pharmacists are not recognized as healthcare providers, they are not able to be reimbursed for their services, which limits pharmacists' ability to optimize medication use and patient care.

2. What steps have been taken towards provider status?

1. Pharmacists have been recognized as providers in several states, which has demonstrated benefits to the healthcare system and patient care. Some examples are listed below:
 1. In California since 2014, legislation (SB493) allows pharmacists to educate patients about disease management and drug therapy, order and interpret tests to monitor drug therapy, and independently administer vaccinations to patients 3 years and older.¹
 2. In Ohio since 2019, legislation (SB 265) recognizes pharmacists as providers to obtain reimbursement for their growing clinical impact on patients, including drug therapy management and vaccine administration.²
2. Throughout the US, the Veterans Affairs (VA) Administration has recognized pharmacists as providers since 1995. They are able to work autonomously under scope of practice standards which allow for prescriptive authority. Referred to as Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners (CPPs), the scope of practice is the VA's version of a collaborative practice agreement, which allows for reimbursement of services provided.²
3. At the federal level, The Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act (HR 592/S 109), proposed to recognize pharmacists as healthcare providers, was introduced in the 2017- 2018 session but was referred to a subcommittee, and never brought to a vote. Provider status legislation has been re-introduced in the 2023 session and needs support to allow pharmacists to provide enhanced patient care.^{3,5}

3. How will provider status affect patient care?

1. Provider status will allow pharmacists to practice at the top of their license collaboratively with other healthcare professionals.
2. The American Association of Medical Colleges projects a national physician shortage potentially exceeding 100,000 prescribers over the next decade, limiting the quality and access of care. Pharmacists can bridge this gap and provide underserved patient populations with the care they need.⁶
3. Provider status will allow pharmacists to participate in multidisciplinary care, improve the lives of more patients, and incentivize new care models to optimize patient outcomes.

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I appreciate you taking the time to speak with me today. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have (exchange contact information).

Remember:

- Stick to plain language that doesn't require healthcare or pharmacy background.
- Keep it short (60-90 seconds).
- Answer any questions and provide feedback/additional info as needed.
- Always follow up with a thank you.

References:

1. [New law could expand role of pharmacists as health care providers · School of Pharmacy · UCSF](#)
2. [Pharmacists Will Soon Be Health Care Providers in Ohio! - iForumRx](#)
3. <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-reintroduces-bipartisan-bill-to-expand-medical-services-to-older-americans-in-underserved-areas>
4. <https://www.formularywatch.com/view/recognizing-pharmacists-healthcare-providers-solution-patient-protection-and-affordable-care-act>
5. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1491?s=1&r=1>
6. [Physician shortage in the U.S. | HPU Online](#)

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