

Advancing Pharmacy Practice in Kentucky Coalition

News and Updates

DECEMBER 2021



PHARMACY LEADERS WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE BRIGHT FUTURE FOR PHARMACY PRACTICE IN THE COMMONWEALTH

The Advancing Pharmacy Practice in Kentucky Coalition (APPKC) Steering Committee member organizations have continued to work tirelessly over the past few months to advocate and advance efforts for practice wide implementation of medical billing for pharmacist provided clinical services. Through widespread engagement with a variety of stakeholders including student, independent, chain, ambulatory, and health-systems pharmacists, health-systems administrators, payors, government officials, EHR software providers, stakeholder associations, and researchers.

Specifically, under the leadership of Dr. Kyle Bryan, Practice Implementation Pharmacist at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy's Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice (CAPP), workgroups focused on 4 key areas highlighted as vital to successful practice-wide implementation by the Steering Committee have been formed. These workgroups include education, engagement, documentation and billing, and implementation. Please see page 2 for more details.

The APPKC member organizations have contributed names representing all areas of pharmacy practice to ensure diverse representation and input. The Steering Committee plans to meet again in January to formally approve the workgroup compositions and charges for each of the workgroups so that efforts may begin in earnest.

Newsletter Highlights

Workgroups being formed by pharmacists from all areas of practice and locations across the state

Workgroups will begin assisting in each of their respective key areas of: Education, Engagement, Documentation and Billing, and Implementation

Educational sessions continue to be held with Steering Committee member organizations

Talks with payors and Department of Insurance are ongoing to assist with efficient Implementation



**WORKGROUP MEMBERS
COME FROM A VARIETY
OF PRACTICE
BACKGROUNDS
INCLUDING:
ACADEMIA, MANAGED
CARE, CHAINS,
INDEPENDENTS,
NUMEROUS HEALTH-
SYSTEMS, AND MORE**

**WORKGROUPS WILL
MEET FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN JANUARY TO
BEGIN PRELIMINARY
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT
WORK EFFORTS,
MEETINGS, AND GROUP
LEADERS**

WORKGROUPS

- **Education**: This group will focus on the development of tailored educational programming and materials to aid in dissemination of information related to HB48 implementation and work to raise general awareness about HB48. As part of their efforts, they will deliver education to a wide range of audiences including pharmacists, technicians, administrators, payors, other healthcare providers, and the general public.
- **Engagement**: This group's work is focused on recruitment and outreach efforts with key stakeholders, including pharmacists, health plans, pharmacy directors and administrators, and others important to successful implementation of HB48.
- **Documentation and Billing**: Efforts of this workgroup are focused on researching and gathering information regarding documentation and billing for pharmacist services under the medical benefit, including types of services, necessary billing codes, documentation requirements, documentation software, etc.
- **Implementation**: This workgroup's efforts are focused on implementation issues outside of billing and documentation such as business plan development, workflow considerations, clinical services implementation, efforts to partner with other healthcare providers, credentialing, contracting, etc.



OUTREACH EFFORTS TO AID IMPLEMENTATION WORK

Early this Fall, Dr. Brooke Hudspeth and Dr. Kyle Bryan engaged in discussion with the American Pharmacy Services Corporation (APSC) members at their annual meeting to discuss HB48, their ongoing efforts, and barriers they perceived to implementation of both clinical services and medical billing for said services. Plans were also made to hold a panel at the annual Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists (KSHP) meeting but the event was unfortunately canceled due to COVID.

Dr. Brooke Hudspeth, Dr. Kyle Bryan, and Dr. Trish Freeman from CAPP recently gave a talk to students and practitioners on House Bill 48 at the Kentucky Pharmacists Association's (KPhA) Fall Conference. After providing a background of the legislation and APPKC, KPhA, and CAPP efforts the audience was engaged in a lively discussion regarding first steps, credentialing, contracting, clinical services, and barriers to implementation of medical billing.

TO PREPARE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR PHARMACY SERVICES, THERE ARE IMPORTANT STEPS THAT YOUR PHARMACY MUST COMPLETE:

- **EXAMINE THE CURRENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY YOUR PHARMACY AND IDENTIFY THOSE THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BILLING.**
- **EACH PHARMACIST SHOULD OBTAIN A NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) NUMBER.**
- **PHARMACISTS MUST BECOME CREDENTIALLED AND CONTRACTED WITH HEALTH PAYERS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO SPECIFY THAT YOU ARE ENROLLING AS A PHARMACIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CARE.**





WORKING WITH PAYORS TO DEVELOP A PERMANENT PAYMENT PATHWAY

KPhA and CAPP have been holding regular meetings with one payor to provide insight into their efforts and help learn how to better prepare pharmacists for billing efforts. Additionally, the Kentucky Association of Health Plans (KAHP) recently reached out to KPhA to set up a meeting between their members and pharmacist representatives. Initial talks with the payors were productive and members showed interest in working with pharmacist stakeholders to help the process along. KAHP leadership is reaching out to their members to determine if continued association-wide collaboration or individual meetings would be more productive.

Talks with the Kentucky Department of Insurance are also in progress regarding HB48, their work on the matter, additional questions they might have, and any insight or assistance they can provide to pharmacists for implementation efforts. A handful of pilot stores have been identified and are working through setting up billing for medical services in order to help ensure efficient widespread rollout.

As we continue to work towards full implementation of HB 48 APPKC member organizations would like to extend our gratitude for the effort and input that so many organization members and other stakeholders have provided thus far. The future of pharmacy practice in Kentucky looks bright as we head into the New Year.

WE WISH EVERYONE A WARM, SAFE, AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!!



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING APPKC WITH HB 48 IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OR CAPP DIRECTLY BY MESSAGING KYLE BRYAN AT [KYLE.BRYAN@UKY.EDU](mailto:kyle.bryan@uky.edu).