

# Advancing Pharmacy Practice in Kentucky Coalition

SEPTEMBER 2021

## News and Updates



Engaging  
Educating  
Transforming



## PHARMACY LEADERS COLLABORATING TO IMPLEMENT GAME CHANGING LEGISLATION

The Advancing Pharmacy Practice in Kentucky Coalition (APPKC) convened a meeting of its Steering Committee in late July to discuss plans going forward in the Coalition's latest efforts to advance pharmacists' practice in Kentucky. Comprised of individuals across all practice settings, members of the coalition represent myriad practice settings including health-system, ambulatory, community, managed-care, academia, the Board of Pharmacy, and students.

At its heart, the Coalition serves as a forum on matters of common interest and concern in regards to pharmacy practice in Kentucky to develop areas of agreement to help drive the advancement of the profession of pharmacy in Kentucky and the nation. Through collaboration and networking members work to advocate for the profession and help ensure practice in Kentucky is at the forefront of the everchanging role of the pharmacist. The Coalition is composed of a Steering Committee of pharmacy leaders from some of the state's leading pharmacy organizations including: the American Pharmacy Services Corporation (APSC), the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy, the Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPhA), the Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists (KSHP), Sullivan University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (SUCOP), and the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy (UKCOP).

Formed in 2012, APPKC began at a two-day summit that brought together stakeholders to identify goals and strategies for advancing the profession over the next several years.

## Newsletter Highlights

HB 48 signed into law:  
Commercial insurances  
must now cover  
pharmacist-provided  
servcies

Kyle Bryan hired by  
UKCOP as New Practice  
Implementation  
Pharmacist to assist  
with efforts

APPKC working on  
training and technical  
assistance for  
pharmacists

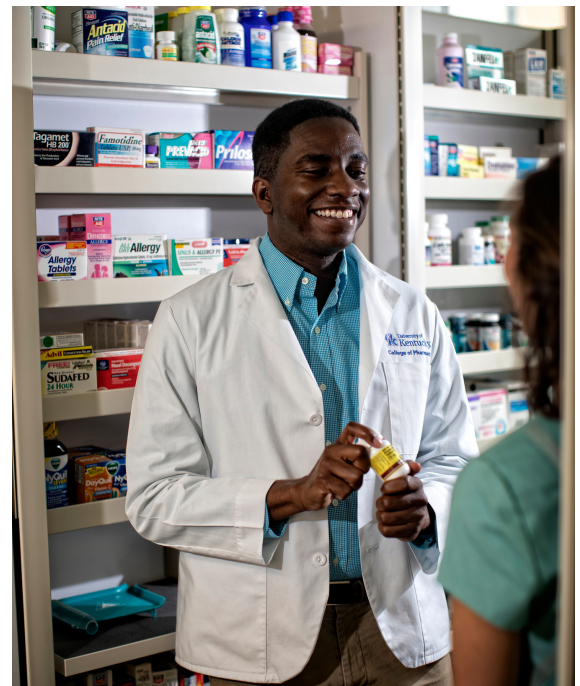
Volunteers are needed  
to assist with efforts  
and provide feedback



At the end of the summit, APPKC was formed to help increase communication and aid collaborative efforts to work together on the issues identified as major focus areas for moving the pharmacy profession forward. While members of APPKC have worked on numerous initiatives over the years, some of their best-known work has been involved with the Board Authorized Protocols allowing pharmacists to provide advanced clinical services for 17 authorized conditions. From advocating and successfully amending the Pharmacy Practice Act to expand scope of practice to include the protocols to successfully developing the regulation to writing and getting protocol templates approved, APPKC was and continues to be involved with this important endeavor as a forum to coordinate implementation efforts and messaging.

On March 18, 2021, Kentucky House Bill 48: An Act relating to reimbursement of pharmacist services sponsored by pharmacist and Representative Danny Bentley, was signed into law. The passage of this bill followed three years of legislative advocacy by KPhA and other APPKC members. HB 48 mandates that commercial insurers provide compensation for pharmacy services if it “is within the scope of practice of pharmacy; would otherwise be covered under the policy, plan, or contract if the service or procedure were provided by a physician, APRN, or PA; and is performed by the pharmacist in strict compliance with laws and administrative regulations related to the pharmacist’s license.” In addition, the compensation will be at a rate not less than that provided to other nonphysician practitioners. Given the novelty of pharmacists billing for clinical services under the medical benefit and not through the PBM on the pharmacy benefit side, both in the state and nationwide, APPKC members are collaborating to assist with implementation efforts for medical billing by pharmacists in Kentucky.

To help with HB 48 implementation efforts the UKCOP Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy Practice (CAPP) recently hired Kyle Bryan, PharmD for the new role of Practice Implementation Pharmacist. In this new role, Kyle will spend part of his time working on practice-wide implementation efforts across the state. As the lead of CAPP efforts to HB48 implementation, Kyle worked with the Steering Committee to identify 4 key focus areas the members agreed would best assist with rollout efforts. These areas include: engagement, implementation, documentation and billing, and education. Each organization is contributing volunteer members to serve on a workgroup for each of the focus areas that will be used to help address needs identified by stakeholders and pharmacists across the state and help distribute education and information in the near future. While this progress is game-changing for Kentucky pharmacists, it is new legislation with little precedent and will require much time and effort to completely and successfully implement. 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).



## What can you do now to Prepare for 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 credentialed and contracted with health payers. It is important to specify that you are enrolling as a pharmacist for the purpose of providing care.

Keep in mind that to date, few states have required insurers to credential and contract with pharmacists; therefore, persistence is key. Many health plans utilize the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) ProView service for their credentialing process.