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PHS Calls for Pharmacist Provider Recognition, Payment

Federal recognition of pharmacists as health care providers and reimbursement of the clinical services they provide will allow "pharmacists to continue to improve patient and health system outcomes," according to a U.S. Public Health Service report.¹

The report calls for the classification of pharmacists as health care providers under the Social Security Act and for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to recognize pharmacists as non-physician practitioners.

The report also notes that "pharmacists with larger roles in patient care improve outcomes, increase access to care (especially for medically underserved and vulnerable populations), shift time for physicians to focus on more critically ill patients in need of physician-based care, improve patient and provider satisfaction, assure patient safety, enhance cost-effectiveness, and clearly advance and improve health care delivery."

The report is available at

<http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/comms/pdf/2011AdvancedPharmacyPracticeReporttotheUSSG.pdf>

1. Giberson S, Yoder S, Lee MP. *Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice. A Report to the U.S. Surgeon General.* Office of the Chief Pharmacist. U.S. Public Health Service. Dec 2011.

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ASHP Health Policy Alerts are synopses of new studies highlighting the medication-use process in health care, especially studies assessing contemporary pharmacists' role in improving medication-use outcomes. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists encourages recipients to keep a copy of this synopsis for future reference.

