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American Society of
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Issue Paper

Enhance Medicare's Return on Investment

Ensure Meaningful Medication Therapy Management Programs are Available for High-Risk Beneficiaries

Background:

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-173) requires that drug plan sponsors participating in Medicare Part D offer medication therapy management programs (MTMPs) to improve prescription drug use and outcomes among certain high-risk patients with multiple chronic conditions and taking multiple medications.

Medication Therapy Management (MTM) has been defined as distinct services that optimize therapeutic outcomes for individual patients, encompassing a broad range of professional clinical activities. These services are essential to ensuring an appropriate return on the significant investment being made to ensure drug coverage. 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.

Several basic elements that should be a part of any MTMP include: patient-specific and individualized services, face-to-face interaction between the patient and pharmacist as the preferred method of delivery, and processes to improve continuity of care, outcomes and outcomes measures.

Because plans were given wide latitude to design their MTMPs, plan-specific eligibility criteria have been too narrowly drawn. For example, some plans used the chronic condition criteria to limit their program to beneficiaries who have only two out of a set of four specific chronic conditions, representing only a small cross-section of the high-risk population. Plans have also limited the scope of their programs to only the lowest-level services.

ASHP Policy Requests:

ASHP supports regulatory or legislative action that would establish a basic minimum framework of services and eligibility for all MTMPs. Establishing such a framework would encourage plans to develop more robust MTMPs, therefore increasing Medicare's return on investment.