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APhA and NASPA Applaud Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Revising Medicare Part D MTM in its 2010 Draft Call Letter to Plans

Extensive Revisions Will Provide Greater MTM Access to Beneficiaries

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The [American Pharmacists Association \(APhA\)](#) and the [National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations \(NASPA\)](#) applaud the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for including extensive revisions to [medication therapy management \(MTM\)](#) programs in its 2010 Draft Call Letter to Medicare Advantage and Part D Prescription Drug Plans. MTM programs serve to improve medication use and are essential for patients managing their medication regimens.

While many Medicare beneficiaries have benefited from pharmacist-provided MTM services, a CMS analysis of previously reported data indicates that more Medicare beneficiaries could benefit from these services. As the nation looks to improve our health care system, it is appropriate to ensure that patients receive the care they need to reduce adverse events and improve health outcomes.

CMS believes these changes will maximize access to MTM and will reduce restrictions on eligibility for MTM services. Specifically, the Agency’s proposed reforms include several industry-recognized best practices such as an annual comprehensive medication review, quarterly medication reviews, quarterly targeted enrollment, and an increased focus on continuity of care between plan years.

The Agency’s proposal to enhance Medicare Part D MTM programs will help these MTM programs meet the Agency’s goal of becoming the “cornerstone” of the Medication Prescription Drug Benefit. Pharmacy supports the Agency’s efforts and stands ready to work with them to continue to improve this essential program.

About the American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

The [American Pharmacists Association](#), founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents more than 63,000 practicing pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in advancing the profession. APhA, dedicated to helping all pharmacists improve medication use and advance patient care, is the first-established and largest association of pharmacists in the United States. APhA members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, health systems, long-term care facilities, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and the uniformed services.

About the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders nationwide, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPAPE).