Collaborative Practice

Collaborative Practice Agreements (CPAs) create formal practice relationships between pharmacists and prescribers. CPAs can benefit collaborative care delivery by identifying what functions – in addition to the pharmacist’s typical scope of practice – are delegated to the pharmacist by the collaborating practitioner, under negotiated conditions outlined in the agreement.

The Iowa Boards of Pharmacy and Medicine have adopted rules authorizing collaborative drug therapy management in both hospital and community settings. However, IPA is seeking to add statutory authority in the Iowa Code to allow the Board of Pharmacy to adopt new or modify existing rules.

Improving Efficiency and Access

- Pharmacists have unique training and expertise in the appropriate use of medications and provide a wide array of patient care services in many different practice settings. These services reduce adverse drug events, improve patient safety, and optimize medication use and health outcomes.
- While CPAs are not a prerequisite for collaborative care delivery, they can serve to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of collaborative care delivery.
- When used to their full potential, CPAs have the ability to increase access to care, expand available services to patients, increase the efficiency and coordination of care, and leverage pharmacists’ medication expertise to complement the skills and knowledge of the other health care team members.

Common Examples

A variety of patient care functions—such as initiating, modifying, or discontinuing medication therapy—can be delegated to a pharmacist using a CPA. These functions can facilitate the delivery of services such as:

- Chronic Care Management
- Refill Authorization
- Formulary Management
- Tobacco Cessation

The pharmacist’s role on a patient’s care team continues to expand, in part because of the increasing body of evidence that shows medication adherence and health outcomes improve when pharmacists are involved. The use of CPAs between pharmacists and prescribers can accelerate this expansion and can help address many public health concerns.¹