Congressional Appeal to CMS on Provider Status

Last Friday, NCAP signed on to a letter with other states providing approval for the Patient Access to Pharmacist’s Care Coalition to contact our members of Congress, and in particular Rep. David Price, since he serves on the Appropriations Committee, in order to request the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) move forward with steps to recognize pharmacists as providers. CMS is not required to comply, but it sends a strong congressional message to CMS to exercise its latitude to recognize pharmacists as healthcare providers.

SCOTUS Case Update

In the February Issue of the NCAP Legislative and Policy Update located at the bottom of the NCAP homepage at www.ncpharmacists.org, we provided information on the Supreme Court Case regarding Pharmacy Benefits Management legislation passed in Arkansas, and later found to be illegal according to the 8th Circuit Court. NCAP has signed on to the Amicus brief filed by Arkansas Pharmacy Association’s representation. This week we got word that the Supreme Court will hear the case on April 27th. The cost for this case is tremendous. However, a win for Arkansas is a win for all of us in pharmacy, regardless of practice setting. Please consider giving whatever amount you can afford to help support this case. You can contribute directly to this cause by clicking here. NCAP will match the first $2500 contributed by North Carolinians.

FDA Rulemaking to Address Drug Importation

State and national pharmacy associations are submitting comments to the FDA regarding work on a rule that would create a process to review and approve plans submitted by states to allow for the importation of drugs. Currently, four states (Florida, Vermont, Colorado and Maine) have passed legislation on Canadian drug importation, but federally importation is not allowed, unless the FDA puts necessary measures in place. ASHP recently submitted a comments letter for the state associations to adopt in which they highlight a number of problems with a final rule that would allow for importation of drugs from Canada: 1) the Canadian drug supply volume is inadequate to supply U.S. citizens; 2) Canada is not in favor due to the potential for widespread drug shortages in their country if provisions are shipped into the states; 3) the ability to import from Canada may give a false sense of security to U.S. citizens, who may on their own use online pharmacies wrought with counterfeit drugs; and 4) the rule could undermine the U.S. supply chain safety created by our ‘track and trace’ measures. NCAP has signed on to previous comment letters regarding the safety issues with drug importation, and we plan to sign on to this ASHP letter along with other states. NCAP members can read more and submit their own comments, here.

NCAP Board of Director’s February Meeting

Your Board of Directors met on Wednesday February 19th. During this meeting they did a rapid fire quick share of things they have done as Board members to help promote the Association since the January meeting. They also voted to approve establishing a task force to work on gathering data, information and next step recommendations to NCAP on the issue of pharmacist prescribing or furnishing of hormonal contraception. The task force will be appointed by NCAP President, David Phillips,
in the next week or two. The Board approved the 2019 Annual Report, and conducted their final review and officially approved the 2020 budget. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on conference and convention. The Board approved moving to a consolidated meeting model in 2021, and agreed to spend time on a proposed framework at the upcoming March Board meeting.

**Emerging Leaders Book Club for New Practitioners**

At a previous NCAP Annual Convention we hosted a workshop for emerging leaders. That workshop was very well received and suggestions were made for NCAP to explore additional ways to foster leadership development. At this time we are checking with our members who are in the first seven years of their career to see the degree of interest in NCAP hosting an emerging leaders book club. If you are interested in participating please email Brianna Berish, Chair of the New Practitioner Forum at brianna.berish@gmail.com. Also, if you are a more ‘seasoned’ pharmacist and you would like to participate as a facilitator for one of the leadership book discussions, please email our Executive Director at penny@ncpharmacists.org.

**NCAP 20th Anniversary**

In celebration of NCAP turning 20 this year, we will share some historical moments and introduce you to some new traditions. This month, we unveil the first NCAP Annual Report. Click here to access a compilation of noteworthy Association news and data for 2019.

**Technician News**

Know a pharmacy technician who wants or needs to become certified? Looking for a resource to help prepare you for taking the PTCB exam? NCAP has formed a partnership with Edupharmtech.com. Ted Spader, RPh and CEO of Edupharmtech has created seven online learning modules (or mini-courses) based on his years of experience teaching PTCB-prep review seminars. Edupharmtech provides learning modules on foundational math skills, pharmacy calculations, top 100 drug review, pharmacy law, risk management and pharmacy practice, as well as hospital practice and aseptic technique. Bundle and save, by purchasing all modules at $75, and when you sign up at edupharmtech.com, save an additional 10% by entering NCAPBUNDLE in the comp code field. Through this partnership with NCAP, technicians can get access to all edupharmtech.com modules for a total of $67.50.

**Partner/Vendor of the Month**

The February NCAP Partner of the Month is the Catawba Valley Society of Pharmacists (CVSP). CVSP is one of approximately 15 active local pharmacy associations located in North Carolina. CVSP is the first local association to form a full partnership with NCAP, whereby their attendees join NCAP, and NCAP coordinates their meetings for them. The pharmacists and technicians benefit from membership at both the local and state level for the same price as joining the state association. On February 16th, Penny Shelton, NCAP Executive Director and Tony Solari, NCAP Lobbyist kicked off the first CVSP meeting of 2020, with a program on a national update on practice advancement and local engagement. That evening a total of 68 pharmacists and technicians joined NCAP. We give a warm welcome to CVSP pharmacists and technicians, and we thank them for paving the way for this new type of member partnership. We also extend a special thank you to Melinda Travis, who has served as the coordinator for CVSP for the past 15 years, and who has agreed to be our local point of contact going forward.

**Continuing Education News**

The NCAP E-Learning Project Team is meeting this week to begin their work on new continuing education webinars for our members. Each month in our E-News we will remind you of this member benefit and feature an on-demand webinar available to you, at no charge, for NC-CE continuing education credit. This month we bring to your attention our on-demand webinar on “Workplace Culture and Patient Safety” provided by Dr. Bob...
Cisneros for 1 hour non-contact continuing education credit.

**Event News**

**2020 Chronic Care/Health-Systems Spring Conference**

Excitement is building, as we are only 7 days away from ‘go time’ for the NCAP Spring Conference on March 5th and 6th at the Rizzo Conference Center in Chapel Hill. If you are already registered for the event, we look forward to seeing you. If you attended last year, then you know the Rizzo treats us like VIPs. It is truly a fantastic facility that works with us closely to make sure your learning and networking experience is unlike any other. Not registered yet? There’s still some time, but hurry, the registration date cut-off has been extended but will close at 8am Monday, March 2nd. For more information on the conference and to register, click here.

**2020 Spring Conference is Open to All Pharmacists**

Even though the NCAP Spring Conference is sponsored by the Chronic Care and Health-Systems Practice Academies, the programming covers clinical topics beneficial to pharmacists in most practice settings. This year, speakers will be providing reviews on DOACs for Peripheral Arterial Disease, Pain Management, Psychotropic Medications, New Drug Review, COPD Update, and many other topics. To see more about the programming and to register, click here.

**2020 Health-System Leadership Meeting at the Spring Conference**

On Thursday, March 5th, during the NCAP Spring Conference at the Rizzo Conference Center, we are hosting the bi-annual Leadership and Management forum for individuals who serve in a leadership or management position for any of our hospitals or health systems in North Carolina. There is no other forum that brings together this group of individuals to share stories, experiences, ideas, and to network. The upcoming session will include presentations on best practices from hospitals in North Carolina. No other state has been recognized by ASHP, for best practices, more times than our very own state. You will not want to miss this leadership meeting with your peers. If you have not yet registered, click here.

**2020 MPJE Prep Workshops for New Grads**

Are you a student pharmacist graduating this May? Are you looking for resources to help you study and prepare for taking the NC MPJE? Then you will want to sign up for one of the two, 2-day MPJE preparatory workshops offered by NCAP this May. The first workshop will be held May 7th and 8th in Chapel Hill, and the second workshop will be held May 13th and 14th in Buies Creek. Any new graduate, regardless of which school of pharmacy you attended, is welcome to register for either of these workshops. Click here to register.

**Upcoming NCAP Hosted Events**

**March 5-6**
NCAP Chronic Care & Health-Systems Spring Conference
Rizzo Conference Center, Chapel Hill

**March 5**
Health-Systems Leadership/Management Meeting at Spring Conference
Rizzo Conference Center, Chapel Hill

**April 19**
Catawba Valley Society of Pharmacists
CE Program (2 Hrs)
Crowne Plaza, Hickory

**May 7-8**
MPJE Preparatory Workshop for New Grads
Kerr Hall, Chapel Hill

**May 13-14**
MPJE Preparatory Workshop for New Grads
Maddox Hall, Buiyes Creek

**May 17**
Catawba Valley Society of Pharmacists
CE Program (2 Hrs)
Crowne Plaza, Hickory

**June 9**
Pharmacy Legislative Day
NC General Assembly, Raleigh

**July 17**
NCAP Residency Conference
Novant Health Conference Center, Winston-Salem

**Important Save-the-Date**

**October 29-30**
NCAP Annual Convention
Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem

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Mutual Drug has been assisting pharmacists in declaring their independence for 65 years. Opening doors for independent pharmacists since 1955.