



New Laws in Colorado, Maine, and New Hampshire Broaden Pharmacist Provider Recognition

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States are continuing to push forward in recognizing pharmacists as healthcare providers.

Colorado's governor has signed [House Bill 21-1275](#) into law, modifying the state Medicaid program to include payments to pharmacists for clinical services under the medical benefit. HB 21-1275 requires all Colorado Medicaid plans to cover medically necessary services provided by a pharmacist in compliance with state scope of practice laws, including pharmacists providing advanced clinical services under collaborative practice agreements or statewide protocols. The bill also authorizes payment to pharmacists to administer extended-release injectable medications for the treatment of mental health or substance use disorders.

Maine's governor has also taken steps to recognize pharmacists as providers by signing [LD 603](#) and [LD 1115](#) into law. LD 603 amends state law to define pharmacists as "providers of healthcare services," while LD 1115 permits pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer drugs for prevention of HIV infection pursuant to statewide protocols to be established by the Board of Pharmacy. LD 1115 also requires insurers to cover HIV prevention drugs without prior authorization or step therapy requirements.

New Hampshire's legislature recently passed [HB 479](#), which requires health plans to recognize pharmacists as providers for the purpose of billing for services within their scope of practice that would have otherwise been covered if furnished by a physician or other practitioner. HB 479 also requires all Medicaid-managed care plans to include pharmacists in their provider networks and reimburse pharmacists for covered services. Additionally, HB 479 permits pharmacists to prescribe all FDA-approved products for nicotine cessation therapy pursuant to a prescriber protocol.

ASHP congratulates the Colorado Pharmacists Society, the Maine Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the New Hampshire Society of Health-System Pharmacists and their members for their work on these bills.

"The legislation adopted in Colorado, Maine, and New Hampshire will ensure patients have access to needed pharmacist services," said Tom Kraus, ASHP's vice president of government relations. "Unfortunately, Medicare beneficiaries will not have coverage for these services. Congress should adopt a payment mechanism to bring Medicare in line with states like Colorado, Maine, and New Hampshire. It is past time for the Medicare program to recognize pharmacists as healthcare providers."

Please take action by [telling your members of Congress](#) to support pharmacist provider status.