

February 25, 2014

The Honorable Marilyn B. Tavenner, Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: CMS-4159-P  
P.O. Box 8013  
Baltimore, MD 21244-8013

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

We want to take this opportunity to voice our strong support for certain proposed changes to the Medicare Part D prescription drug program that will allow more meaningful beneficiary choice and increased marketplace competition. The undersigned organizations represent key healthcare providers who have been on the front lines of providing medications and related counseling to Medicare beneficiaries since the inception of the Part D program as well as drug supply chain participants.

We stand in strong support of the following provisions contained in the proposed rule:

- **CMS' Interpretation of the Non-Interference Provision and Timely Updates to Drug Pricing Standards:** We agree the *Medicare Modernization Act* non-interference provision was intended to address negotiations related to the selection of drug products that would be covered under Part D formularies, and was not meant to prohibit CMS guidance that ensures the Part D marketplace operates in a fair and efficient fashion. We commend CMS for recognizing additions to what constitutes a "prescription drug pricing standard." We support CMS' expectations that pharmacies should have current data on the amount of reimbursement they can expect, which in turn impacts costs that plan sponsors submit to CMS as well as prices displayed on Plan Finder.
- **Preferred Cost Sharing for Beneficiaries and Any Willing Pharmacy Standard Terms & Conditions:** We applaud CMS for formally recognizing that, although the agency was led to believe that its costs via preferred pharmacy networks to be uniformly lower, CMS' own findings proved otherwise. We support CMS' proposal to require Part D plan sponsors to offer terms & conditions for every level of cost sharing, including preferred cost sharing, to any willing pharmacy that will accept the terms. This proposal will benefit seniors by giving them more choice among pharmacies in their drug plan, and will lead to increased competition in the marketplace.
- **Expansion of Medication Therapy Management Program (MTM) Under Part D:** MTM services are critical to patient understanding and adherence to their medication regimens, and are ideally provided face-to-face by a pharmacist. We fully support the agency's efforts to expand access to these critical services and agree with CMS that MTM must become a cornerstone of the Prescription Drug Benefit, and that studies have shown the positive impact on patient outcomes and costs that MTM provides.

We ask that CMS finalize these provisions, without changes, in an expeditious manner in order to bring meaningful choice and competition to the Part D Program.

Sincerely,

Alaska Pharmacists Association  
Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Pharmacies  
American Pharmacy Cooperative, Inc.  
American Pharmacy Services Corp.  
AmeriClear Rx  
Appro-Rx  
Arizona Pharmacy Association  
Arkansas Pharmacists Association  
Associated Fresh Markets  
Association of Community Pharmacists Congressional Network  
Astrup Drug, Inc.  
Aurora Pharmacies  
Bartell Drugs  
Big Y Foods, Inc.  
Brookshire Grocery Company  
California Pharmacists Association  
CARE Pharmacies Cooperative, Inc.  
Cecil 's Pharmacy  
Chain Drug Marketing Association  
Community Pharmacy Prescription Network  
Compliant Pharmacy Alliance Cooperative  
Connecticut Pharmacists Association  
Dan's Fresh Market  
Davis Food and Drug  
DiCello & Associates, Inc.  
Dick's Fresh Market  
Digital Simplistics, Inc.  
Discount Drug Mart, Inc.  
Drug Emporium Pharmacies  
EPIC Pharmacies, Inc.  
EPIC Pharmacy Network, Inc.  
Fagen Pharmacy  
FDS, Inc.  
Federation of Pharmacy Networks  
Florida Pharmacy Association  
Frank W. Kerr Co.  
Fresh Encounter, Inc.  
Fruth Pharmacy  
Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc.

Georgia Pharmacy Association  
GeriMed  
GPhA Academy of Independent Pharmacy  
Guardian Pharmacy  
Harmon's  
Hartig Drug  
Hi-School Pharmacy Inc.  
HomeTown Pharmacy Inc.  
Hy-Vee Pharmacies  
Idaho State Pharmacy Association  
Illinois Pharmacists Association  
Independent Pharmacy Alliance  
Independent Pharmacy Buying Group, Inc.  
Independent Pharmacy Cooperative  
Innovatix, LLC  
International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists  
Iowa Pharmacy Association  
Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corp.  
Kansas Pharmacists Association  
Kelley-Ross Long Term Care Pharmacy  
Kentucky Pharmacists Association  
Keystone Pharmacy Purchasing Alliance  
King Kullen Pharmacies  
Kinney Drugs, Inc.  
Kopp Drug  
La Farmacia de la Gente  
Lagniappe Pharmacy Services  
Lifecheck Pharmacies  
Lin's Fresh Market  
Long Island Pharmacists Society  
Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association  
Macey's Supermarkets  
Mallatt's Homecare Pharmacy  
Managed Health Care Associates, Inc.  
Maryland Pharmacists Association  
Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association  
Massachusetts Pharmacists Association  
MedOne Healthcare Systems  
Merwin LTC Pharmacies  
Michigan Pharmacists Association  
Minnesota Pharmacists Association  
Mississippi Independent Pharmacies Association  
Missouri Pharmacy Association  
Montana Pharmacy Association  
Mutual Wholesale Drug Company  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations

National Community Pharmacists Association  
National Grocers Association  
National Rural Health Association  
Navarro Discount Pharmacies, LLC.  
Nebraska Pharmacists Association  
New Jersey Pharmacists Association  
New Mexico Pharmacists Association  
Niemann Foods, Inc.  
North Dakota Pharmacists Association  
Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation  
Northwest Specialty Pharmacy  
NoviXus Mail Service Pharmacy  
Ohio Pharmacists Association  
Osborn Drugs, Inc.  
Our Valley Pharmacy  
Pace Alliance  
Pakistani American Pharmaceutical Association  
Partners in Pharmacy Cooperative  
PBA Health/TrueCare Pharmacies  
PCCA  
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association  
PerroneRX, LLC  
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York  
Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency  
Pharmacy Plus Network  
Pharmacy Provider Service Corp.  
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin  
Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists  
PPOk RxSelect Pharmacy Network  
PPSC  
Progressive Pharmacies  
QS/1 Data Systems  
Quality Care Pharmacies  
QuickChek Pharmacies  
Raley's Family of Fine Stores  
Ralph's Thriftway Pharmacy  
Red Cross Pharmacy  
Ritzman Pharmacies  
Rochester Drug Cooperative, Inc.  
RxPlus Pharmacies  
RxPreferred Benefits  
Sav-Mor Drug Stores  
Sav-On Drugs  
ShopRite  
Smith Drug Company  
South Carolina Pharmacy Association

Southern Pharmacy Cooperative  
Tennessee Pharmacists Association  
Texas Independent Pharmacies Association  
Texas Pharmacy Association  
Texas Pharmacy Business Council  
Third Party Station  
Thrifty White Pharmacy  
Town & Country Markets  
United Drugs  
Value Drug Company  
Value Merchandiser Company  
Virginia Pharmacists Association  
Walker Drug  
Washington State Pharmacy Association  
Weis Markets  
West Virginia Pharmacists Association  
Woods Supermarkets  
Wray's Marketfresh IGA

Cc: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius