



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

Statement
Of
The National Association of Chain Drug Stores
For
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
On
“Examining Barriers to Expanding Innovative,
Value-Based Care in Medicare”

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Introduction

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) thanks Chairman Burgess, Ranking Member Green, and the members of the Subcommittee on Health for your leadership in exploring ways to improve access to quality healthcare services in the Medicare program. The chain pharmacy community welcomes the opportunity to partner with lawmakers and other stakeholders in examining ways to improve access to better care through innovative, value-based care in the Medicare program.

NACDS represents traditional drug stores and supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate over 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' nearly 100 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 152,000 pharmacists. They fill over 3 billion prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability. NACDS members also include more than 900 supplier partners and over 70 international members representing 20 countries. For more information, visit www.NACDS.org.

As the Subcommittee examines innovative approaches to improve health care quality and lower costs through value-based program designs, NACDS urges the Subcommittee to consider how community pharmacies can assist in achieving these important health system goals.

Access, quality, cost, and efficiency in healthcare are critical. This is especially important as many beneficiaries suffer from multiple chronic conditions and require coordinated care by a team of professionals. Significant consideration should be given to policies and initiatives that improve healthcare capacity and strengthen community partnerships. Retail pharmacies are often the most readily accessible healthcare provider. Research shows that nearly all Americans (89%) live within five miles of a retail pharmacy. To expand on the need for including pharmacy as a valued member of the health care team, we direct you to the attached letter NACDS recently submitted to the Health Care Innovation Caucus detailing the role retail pharmacies can play in innovative value-based programs.

Conclusion

NACDS thanks the Subcommittee for consideration of our comments. We look forward to working with policymakers and stakeholders on these important issues.