



## H.R. 592/S. 314: Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act Fact Sheet

H.R. 592/S. 314 is a bipartisan bill that would amend the Social Security Act to recognize pharmacists as providers under Medicare Part B. These ambulatory-based patient care services would be reimbursable under Medicare Part B if they are provided in medically underserved communities and are consistent with the pharmacists' state scope of practice laws. H.R. 592/S. 314 would not expand the types of services that pharmacists are permitted to provide. The bill was introduced in the House by Representatives Brett Guthrie (R-KY), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Todd Young (R-IN), and Ron Kind (D-WI) and in the Senate by Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Robert Casey (D-PA), and Mark Kirk (R-IL).

Specifically, H.R. 592/S. 314 would amend section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Security Act to:

- Allow Medicare beneficiaries to have access to services provided by a pharmacist in accordance with the pharmacists state scope of practice laws;
- Focus on pharmacist care and services to Medicare beneficiaries in medically underserved communities, (i.e., medically underserved areas, medically underserved populations, or health professional shortage areas, as designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration);
- Provide a Medicare reimbursement for services provided by a pharmacist in a medically underserved community, which is reimbursed at 85% of the physician fee schedule; and
- Allow the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' to establish pharmacist-specific codes under the physician fee schedule.

### About Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists

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Hematology/Oncology pharmacists (oncology pharmacists) play an important role in the delivery of care for individuals living with cancer. Oncology pharmacists are involved with the care of cancer patients at all phases of their treatment; from assessment and diagnosis, to treatment decisions, medication management, symptom management and supportive care, and with survivorship programs once their treatment has been completed. They work with other care providers to ensure a current and accurate medication list, select the most appropriate therapy, monitor the effects of medications prescribed, and manage the adverse effects that often accompany cancer treatment.

### Recommendation

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HOPA supports initiatives that advance the role of the hematology/oncology pharmacist, as we strive to reach our goal of having a hematology/oncology pharmacist involved with the care of every cancer patient. We believe that pharmacists are an essential component of patient care and deserve to be recognized as such by all payers. H.R. 592/S. 314 will help to address gaps in our nation's health care system by increasing access to pharmacists' services in all ambulatory settings, including clinics, office practices in hospitals, and health systems that treat Medicare patients who live in medically underserved communities. **Congress should support H.R. 592/S. 314 and recognize pharmacists as providers under Medicare Part B.**