

# The Potential Role of Pharmacists and Pharmacies

National Pharma Audioconference: The New Medicare-Endorsed Prescription Drug Discount Card Program: How it Will Work and Who Will Participate

January 28, 2004

Providing Chronic Disease Management • Preventing Medication Errors • Improving Patient Safety • Ensuring Patient Confidentiality Advocating for a Medicare Drug Benefit • Providing Medication Therapy Management Services • Ensuring Effective Pain Management Improving Access to Medications • Advancing Patient Care • Improving Medication Use • Providing Patient Education

Improving Patient Safety Ensuring Patient Confide Increasing Access to Gene Ensuring Effective Pain Ma Improving Medication Ur Advancing Patient Care

#### Pharmacists will make a Medicare Pharmacy Benefit Work.

Have you talked to your pharmacist lately?

Access to Medications Medicare Drug Benefit roviding Patient Education Improving Patient Safety ing Patient Confidentiality nic Disease Management



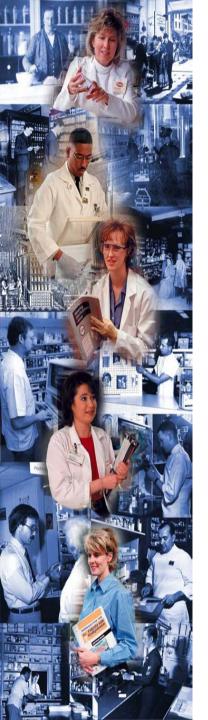
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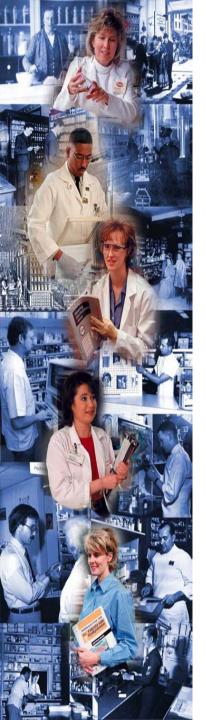
## **Role of Pharmacists**

- Patient Educator
- Access Point
- Discount Source
- Benefit Administrator
- Medication Expert



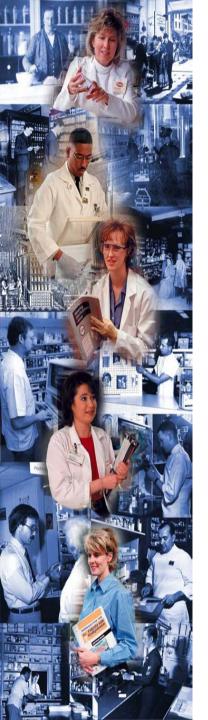
#### **Role of Pharmacists** Patient Educator

- Most accessible health care provider
- Assist Patients in Navigating the Program
  - "Why isn't the discount bigger?"
  - "Which card should I use for each drug?"
  - "Do you know how much transitional assistance I have left?"
  - "Why isn't this drug covered? It was last month?"



### **Role of Pharmacists** Access Point

- Law requires access to brick & mortar pharmacy
  - Networks Authorized
  - DoD/TriCare Standards



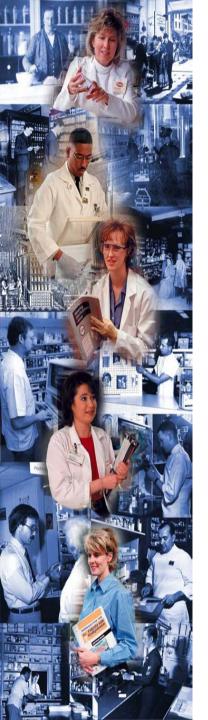
# **Role of Pharmacists** Discount Source

- Potential source of discount for plan sponsor
  - "Secure" vs. "Negotiate"
- Required to pass through <u>some of the</u> discount from manufacturer to beneficiary
- No guarantee of pharmacy being "made whole"



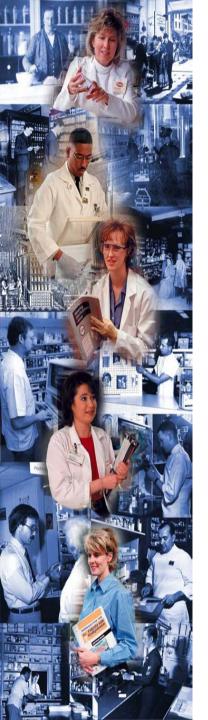
# **Role of Pharmacists** Benefit Administrator

- Card Limits
  - Medicare-Endorsed  $\sim$  one
  - Non-Medicare-Endorsed  $\sim$  unlimited
  - Manufacturer-Based ~ unlimited
- Price Differential Information
- Transitional Assistance
- Formulary Information



## **Role of Pharmacists** Medication Expert

- Partner with patients to improve medication use
- Partner with prescribers to advance patient care
- Partner with plans to provide Drug Utilization Review services
  - Safety & Efficacy



#### Medicare Changes will Change Pharmacy Practice

- Potential for harm...
  - Will discount card provide enough discount, from the major source of the cost?
  - Will coverage be 'enough' for consumers?
  - Sufficient compensation for medications and services?
  - Will navigating the benefit take priority over improving medication use?



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