Addressing the COVID-19 Crisis: An Open Forum Webinar Series for Pharmacists

August 13, 2020
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President, APhA

Host and Moderator
Today’s Focus:

Discuss pharmacy models for COVID-19 testing, successful approaches to implementing testing and the pharmacist’s role in related patient care services.
Eric Larson, PharmD
Owner/President
Prescriptions Unlimited

Guest Speaker
Jasmina Bjegovic, PharmD
Manager, Pharmacy Operations
Walgreens

Guest Speaker
Daniel Zlott, PharmD, BCOP
Senior Vice President
Education and Business Development
American Pharmacists Association

Subject Matter Expert: Q&A
Michael Baxter
Senior Director, Regulatory Policy
American Pharmacists Association

Subject Matter Expert: Q&A
Format for Today’s Webinar

1:00 pm: Introductions
1:05 pm: Discussion with Eric Larson & Jasmina Bjegovic
1:25 pm: Open Forum: A Minute for Your Thoughts
1:50 pm: Wrap Up: Review of APhA’s Ongoing Activities and What’s Coming
Open Forum Ground Rules

• Use the Questions field on the GoToWebinar toolbar to submit comments and questions related to the topic discussion.

• Individuals whose submissions are selected will be asked by the moderator to state the comment or question for the audience. The line for the individual will be unmuted to read their comment or question.

• To maximize the number of questions/comments addressed, a 60-second time limit will be in effect for everyone to state their question or comment.

• We will try to get to as many comments and questions as possible. We have created a new forum for COVID-19 discussions where further discussion post-webinar. Information on participating in this forum will be provided at the end of the open forum.
Discussion with Eric Larson & Jasmina Bjegovic

Discuss pharmacy models for COVID-19 testing, successful approaches to implementing testing and the pharmacist’s role in related patient care services.
Pharmacy Models for COVID-19 Testing

Pharmacy Testing Model #1: Specimen Collection in Partnership with a Laboratory

- Review Testing Considerations and Requirements
- Identify a Laboratory Partner
- Obtain Testing Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Patient Assessment
- Specimen Collection
- Implement Communication Plan
- Payment for Services
- Documentation

Pharmacy Testing Model #2: Point-of-Care Testing

- Review Testing Considerations and Requirements
- Obtain a CLIA Certificate of Waiver
- Enroll as an Independent Clinical Laboratory
- Pharmacy Obtains Testing Device, Supplies, and Personal Protective Equipment
- Patient Assessment
- Specimen Collection
- Conduct Point-of-Care Test
- Implement Communication Plan
- Payment for Services
- Documentation

View the practice resource [here](#).
Prescriptions Unlimited
Prescriptions Unlimited

COVID-19 TESTING

Offered in partnership with the Florida Department of Health

APPOINTMENT ONLY

COVID-19 TESTING
Walgreens
Sensitivity
“True positive rate”
The proportion of people with COVID-19 that test positive
A test that is 100% sensitive means everyone with COVID-19 was identified correctly (No false negatives)

Specificity
“True negative rate”
The proportion of healthy people who test negative
A test that is 100% specific means everyone healthy is identified correctly (No false positives)
Polling Question

Which testing model below best describes how your pharmacy is providing this service?

A. Swab & Send (Specimen Collection in Partnership with a Lab)
B. Point of Care
C. Both Swab & Send and Point of Care
D. Embedded in physician practice
E. Interested in providing COVID-19 testing
Open Forum Discussion: A Minute for Your Thoughts

Comments, Questions, Feedback
Review of APhA’s Ongoing Activities and What’s Coming
CMS Removes Restrictions Around Pharmacists Furnishing DSMT via Telehealth During Public Health Emergency (PHE)

- CMS clarified pharmacists employed by a pharmacy that is enrolled in Medicare Part B as an accredited Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) program - pharmacy accreditation by the Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (AADE) or the American Diabetes Association (ADA) - and approved by a Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) can also bill Medicare Part B for DSMT services furnished via telehealth for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE).

“Under this waiver, professionals that are eligible to bill Medicare Part B directly for DSMT services, i.e., accredited and certified DSMT programs that have been approved by a Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), may furnish and bill for DSMT services furnished via telehealth for the duration of the COVID-19 PHE.”
August 7, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar II
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Executive Order #13924 on Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery

Dear Secretary Azar:

As the nation’s economy begins to reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak, America’s national pharmacy organizations are respectfully urging HHS Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), etc., to take action to make permanent the regulatory flexibilities surrounding pharmacists’ ability to test and treat patients for COVID-19 and independently determine what care patients can receive. These actions will help bolster the testing capabilities of our healthcare system and mitigate any potential economic setback.

On May 19, 2020, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13924, “Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery,” signaling agencies to temporarily or permanently relax, modify, waive, or exempt enforcement discretion or appropriate temporary extensions of time as provided for in their regulations related to the public health emergency, in the interest of promoting job creation and economic growth. After the COVID-19 emergency period comes to an end, as you know, pharmacists are trusted health practitioners who have the ability to significantly expand patient access to needed care, should criminal regulatory barriers be permanently removed. While there are still barriers in place that restrict pharmacists from fully utilizing their expertise, CMS, FDA, and other Federal agencies have begun to address a number of issues to help mitigate our nation’s economy and protect our country from further economic fallout associated with the ongoing pandemic.

In an effort to accomplish the economic priorities laid out in the EO and get Americans back to work, we urge HHS to expediently use its authorities and enforcement discretion to make permanent:

- Pharmacists’ ability to order, authorize, test, and treat infectious disease
- Reimbursement for specific pharmacist-provided patient care services during public health responses;
- Removal of operational barriers that have restricted pharmacists from engaging in patient care, and...
American Pharmacists Association

To take action now, go to: https://actioncenter.pharmacist.com/campaign/coronavirus/

To learn about how you can call your representatives, contact Mary-Ryan Douglass at mrdouglass@aphanet.org
Pharmacists’ Guide to Coronavirus

Information and Resources on COVID-19 for Pharmacists and the Communities They Serve

Trending Topics

- Testing in Pharmacies
- Medications Being Studied
- Immunizations
- Managing Your Pharmacy
- Telehealth
- All Topics

Check out the redesigned Pharmacists’ Guide to Coronavirus!
Pharmacist.com/coronavirus
15 on COVID-19 Training Series

APhA 15 on COVID-19: Dexamethasone (July 31)
Finally there is a drug that has demonstrated improved survival outcomes in COVID-19. Fortunately for everyone, that drug is a widely available, inexpensive drug that we are all familiar with: dexamethasone. Join us for today’s 15 on COVID-19 episode as we review the dexamethasone data in COVID-19. (CPE Video)

APhA 15 on COVID-19: mRNA Vaccines (July 24)
As the number of COVID-19 cases has started to spike again in the U.S., there is an increased focus on COVID-19 vaccines. Join us for today’s 15 on COVID-19 episode as we look at the new mRNA vaccine technology, and look at the early data to see if they are a viable option for preventing COVID-19. (CPE Video)
Post on ENGAGE
Pharmacy’s Response to COVID-19

**POST** your questions

**SHARE** your lessons learned

**SUPPORT** your colleagues

**ACCESS** the latest information

What does your COVID-19 testing workflow look like?

How did you get started with COVID-19 testing in your community?
Join Us

*Same Day, Same Time, Same Place*

• Weekly webinar will be on **Thursday, August 20th**, from 1-2pm ET
• Next Week’s Topic: **Vaccine Safety**
• Today’s webinar recording and slides will be available within 24hrs

https://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus/weekly-webinars