



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 13, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 440 Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) is submitting this letter of information for Senate Bill 440 (SB 440) titled, "Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use." SB 440 would expand the role of pharmacists to include tobacco cessation counseling and prescription of related tobacco cessation products, and require Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health Program to provide coverage for services rendered by licensed pharmacists.

The Public Health Service has concluded that effective cessation treatments include individual, group, and/or phone counseling, as well as seven FDA-approved cessation aids.¹ Pharmacists are well positioned to provide tobacco cessation aids, as they are often more available than physicians without an appointment and accessible within the communities they serve.² Eight states currently have programs in place allowing pharmacists to prescribe cessation aids. An additional four states have pending regulations.^{3,4,5}

This bill will have a fiscal impact on the Department. Medicaid enrollees use tobacco at significantly higher rates than the general population (30 percent vs. 18 percent), and the Affordable Care Act requires Medicaid programs to cover all FDA-approved tobacco cessation aids with a written prescription.^{6,7} As pharmacists are already authorized provider types under Medicaid, the Department estimates that expanding coverage for tobacco cessation counseling and prescription of tobacco cessation products to pharmacists would result in a 10% increase in delivery of counseling services and related prescribing annually.

If you have additional questions, please contact Mr. Webster Ye, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary

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- ¹ Fiore MC, Jaen CR, Baker TB, et al. Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence: 2008 Update. Clinical Practice Guideline, May 2008, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; retrieved 31 January 2020 at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK63952/>.
- ² Dent, L, Harris KJ, and Noonan CW, *Randomized Trial Assessing the Effectiveness of a Pharmacist Delivered Program for Smoking Cessation*. The annals of Pharmacotherapy. 2009;43(2):194-201; retrieved 4 February 2020 at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1345/aph.1L556>.
- ³ Tobacco Control Network: *Access to Tobacco Cessation Medication through Pharmacists*; retrieved 2 February 2020 at <https://www.astho.org/Prevention/Tobacco/Tobacco-Cessation-Via-Pharmacists/>.
- ⁴ Adams, A., Hudmon, K., Journal of the American Pharmacists Association, "Pharmacist prescriptive authority for smoking cessation medications in the United States, Volume 58, Issue 3, 253 – 257; retrieved 2 February 2020 at [https://www.japha.org/article/S1544-3191\(18\)30001-3/fulltext](https://www.japha.org/article/S1544-3191(18)30001-3/fulltext).
- ⁵ Pharmacist Prescribing: Tobacco Cessation Aids; retrieved 4 February 2020 at <https://naspa.us/resource/tobacco-cessation/>.
- ⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. National Health Interview Survey, 2012. Analysis by the American Lung Association, Research and Program Services Division; retrieved 31 January 2020 at <https://www.lung.org/assets/documents/tobacco/barriers-to-accessing-tobacco.pdf>.
- ⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation: What Are Medicaid Programs Required to Cover for Tobacco Cessation; retrieved 31 January 2020 at https://www.cdc.gov/statesystem/factsheets/medicaid/Cessation.html#anchor_1562854662.