Federal Pharmacists are essential to health care access and delivery in the United States; recognized as health care providers of patient-centered primary and specialty care, and as trusted public health leaders. As experts in medication use and comprehensive pharmacy services, we promote wellness, prevent and manage disease, ensure patient safety, and optimize health outcomes in collaboration with the health care team.

Federal Pharmacist Vision

There exists a recognized disparity between the demands of health care delivery - access to care, quality outcomes, cost-effectiveness, health care provider shortages - and the utilization of pharmacists in the federal and non-federal sectors. Federal pharmacists have played a significant role in the federal health care system to bridge these gaps and improve public health, health care systems, and consumer outcomes through expanded roles and responsibilities.

The unique federal pharmacy practice environments and sustained interprofessional partnerships have given federal pharmacists the capacity to respond through diverse pharmacy roles and the ability to adapt to the needs of the federal health care systems. Federal pharmacists have had the opportunity to facilitate the very changes that advance the profession. It is our shared responsibility to leverage these comparative advantages of our practice environments and work in partnership with key non-federal stakeholders to lead for the profession and improve the nation’s health. Given this responsibility, federal pharmacy leadership recently assessed and identified the need for a more uniform and formalized federal pharmacist vision and scope of practice.

A call-to-action in 2010 initiated the development of the federal pharmacist vision and scope of practice. On April 20, 2010, the Federal Pharmacy Chiefs from the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the Public Health Service (PHS) discussed the opportunities for federal pharmacist collaborations. On September 23, 2010, the Federal Pharmacy Chiefs unanimously agreed to move forward with this initiative. Through numerous e-mail exchanges, teleconference calls, and face-to-face meetings, the Federal Pharmacy Chiefs collaboratively developed the Federal Pharmacist Vision. The vision was finalized on December 22, 2010 and was then expanded to enumerate the scope of practice.

Federal pharmacists continue to advance the profession through expanded roles in clinical pharmacy practice, public health, regulatory sciences, emergency and humanitarian response, health leadership, national health security, global health, and much more. The consensus-built Federal Pharmacist Vision and Scope of Practice provide a platform to maximize the effective use of pharmacists, foster new paradigms of care, and ultimately improve the health of the nation.
The **Federal Pharmacist Vision** is a forward-thinking vision proposed to:

1. Enhance collaboration and leverage unique practice environments of federal pharmacists;
2. Sustain and expand the scope of pharmacy practice; and
3. Increase access to patient-centered, cost-effective quality care.

The vision serves as an attainable pharmacy practice end-state for health leadership, pharmacy organizations, and all partners to consider as we reduce gaps between the need for improved health outcomes and optimal utilization of the pharmacy profession.

The following Scope of Practice describes the state of pharmacy practice when the Federal Pharmacist Vision has been achieved:

- It is the standard of care that federal pharmacists are fully utilized as essential members of the health care team to deliver a wide range of patient-centered clinical care services that increase health care access, improve quality of care, assure patient safety, and provide for cost-effective care.
- Federal pharmacists are trusted health leaders and partners functioning in a wide array of practice settings, including clinical pharmacy, regulatory science, research, policy development, health information technology, epidemiology, emergency preparedness and response, disaster and humanitarian aid, and global health.
- Federal pharmacists are recognized by the public, other health professionals, and policy makers as health care providers and public health professionals with multiple areas of expertise, including disease management, total health, fitness and wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention.
- Federal pharmacists hold key positions related to health leadership, policy development, and decision-making within the health care system and government.
- Federal pharmacists effectively prevent and manage disease, and optimize clinical outcomes when disease is primarily managed through medication use.
- Federal pharmacists practice to the maximum extent of their licensure and education. States’ scopes of practice are clearly articulated to include collaborative practice whereby pharmacists and physicians co-manage disease through medication use. Privileges are granted locally through collaborative practice agreements (CPAs) by physicians or other appropriate medical staff.
- Multiple compensation mechanisms, reflective of the highest levels and full range of care provided by federal pharmacists, are available and adequate to sustain these value-added services.
- Patients, providers, administrators, health leadership, policy makers, and payers recognize that pharmacist-delivered patient care and other services improve outcomes, increase access to high quality care, and are included as essential services at multiple levels of health care delivery.
- Federal pharmacists leverage the expanded practice environments and share responsibility with non-federal pharmacists to improve individual health care outcomes and overall population health, and to lead the advancement of the pharmacy profession.
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