



*Mississippi*  
**Pharmacists**  
Association



Mississippi Legislature - MS.GOV (2022)

#### IN THIS ISSUE

## **Mississippi Pharmacists Association Governmental Affairs Committee January Newsletter**

## **Legislative Session Update**

The 2022 Mississippi Legislative Session has officially begun! On January 4, Mississippi's Representatives and Senators headed back to Jackson to kick off what appears to be a busy few months. Some major issues that we can expect to see brought before the legislature include redistricting, income tax cuts, teacher pay, and the spending of an extra \$4.2 billion bestowed to Mississippi from the federal government. Of particular interest to pharmacists across the state is the upcoming medical cannabis bill. With so many big topics set to be addressed, 2022 appears to be off to an exciting start!

### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE**

### **NEW YORK MAKES MOVE TO PROTECT PHARMACY ACCESS**

### **REIMBURSEMENTS FOR DISPENSING RELATED TO COVID-19**

### **MEDICAL CANNABIS**

### **WHAT TO WATCH**

### **A MESSAGE FROM MPHA PRESIDENT, PEYTON HERRINGTON**



The Washington Post (2019)

## New York Makes Move to Protect Pharmacy Access

On December 31, 2021, NY Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation (NY Senate Bill S3556) that establishes that all pharmacies shall be provided the same reimbursements. This legislation, supported by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), aims to protect patient access to pharmacy services by ensuring that patients are able to use their pharmacies of choice and are not forced into mandatory mail order.

## Reimbursements for Dispensing Related to COVID-19

Pharmacists across the country are disappointed with the decision of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to "encourage" rather than require reimbursement to pharmacies COVID-19 related services. Six large pharmacy organizations, including The American Pharmacists Association, have criticized this decision.

In a joint public announcement issued on December 3, 2021, the organizations stated, "...the failure of CMS to require pharmacists to be compensated for testing, patient assessment, and ordering/prescribing, in addition to dispensing oral antivirals makes little sense and sets up the distribution program for failure.... The federal government has made it clear we need all-hands-on-deck to defeat COVID-19 and advance health equity by authorizing pharmacists and other pharmacy personnel to order and administer oral antivirals. Without hesitation, throughout the pandemic, our nation's frontline pharmacists have stepped up to meet the public health needs of our patients."

## Senate Passes Medical Cannabis Bill

Senate Bill 2095, better known as the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act of 2022, passed through the Senate on Thursday, January 13. This bill should reach the House of Representatives soon.



The Clarion-Ledger (2021)

### WHAT DOES SENATE BILL 2095 INCLUDE?

ALLOWS PATIENTS UP TO 3 OUNCES OF MEDICAL CANNABIS PER MONTH

ALLOWS MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR 22 CONDITIONS LISTED IN INITIATIVE 65, INCLUDING CHRONIC PAIN

ALLOWS PHYSICIANS, NURSE PRACTITIONERS, PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS, AND OPTOMETRISTS TO CERTIFY PATIENTS FOR USE

## What to Watch - SB2109

SB2109, which would act to amend Section 73-15-20, Mississippi Code Of 1972, and authorize a nurse practitioner to dispense a legend drug or medication to patients of the nurse practitioner.

## For More Information

Scan the QR codes with your cellphone to learn more...



NY Legislation to Protect Patient Medication Access

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s3566>



Statement Regarding COVID-19 Reimbursements

<https://naspa.us/2021/12/pharmacy-groups-cms-guidance-sets-up-oral-antivirals-for-failure-limiting-patients-access-to-covid-19-treatments/>



Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act of 2022

<https://mississippitoday.org/2022/01/12/mississippi-medical-marijuana-senate-bill/>

## Message from MPhA President, Peyton Herrington

MPhA Members,

One of our core organizational goals is to legislatively advocate for pharmacists in the state of MS. In fact, if you look on our website (<https://www.mspharm.org/>), you'll see that this is one of our main areas of focus. This newsletter is an addition to our tools of advocacy aimed at further informing our membership. I appreciate the work that our Gov Affairs Committee Chair, Anna Rhett, and our staff, Beau Cox and Mindy Phillips, have put into increasing information output to our membership in order to increase YOUR ability as members to advocate for your profession. All of this work is put forth in hopes that we're making a positive impact for our patients, our state's pharmacists, and the healthcare needs of our state. Please feel encouraged to reach out and get involved in legislative affairs within our state and use this newsletter as a tool to get started.

With Gratitude,

Peyton Herrington



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