



Mississippi Pharmacists Association



Mississippi Legislature - MS.GOV (2022)

Mississippi Pharmacists Association Governmental Affairs Committee February Newsletter

Message from Beau Cox, MPhA Executive Director

The Legislative session is in full swing, and we are working hard at the Capitol fighting bills that will hurt the pharmacy profession and pushing bills that will help. I joined with MIPA Executive Director, Robert Dozier, and Miss. Board of Pharmacy Executive Director, Susan McCoy, for multiple meetings at the Capitol to raise concerns over bills that would allow Nurse Practitioners to dispense to a patient without any pharmacist involvement. We tried again at the beginning of the session to have pharmacist's involvement with medical marijuana with no luck. At this point, committee deadlines have passed, and we are focused on two main topics: SB 2658 (Medicaid Technical Amendment) and HB733 (Pharmacy Benefit Prompt Pay Act Revision)

IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM BEAU COX, MPhA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UPDATE ON MEDICAL CANNABIS BILL: SB2095

MEDICAID TECHNICAL AMENDMENT BILL: SB2658

PHARMACY BENEFIT PROMPT PAY ACT REVISION: HB733

PHARMACY BENEFIT PROMPT PAY ACT REVISION: HB733



The Clarion-Ledger (2021)

Update on Medical Cannabis bill, Senate Bill 2095

On February 2, 2022, Governor Tate Reeves passed the "Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act." The law grants medical cannabis access to patients with certain medical conditions, such as, cancer, ALS, HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's disease and more. The law, however, does not include pharmacists' involvement at the time of signing. Even though the law passed with the exclusion of pharmacists, the conversation is still ongoing between lawmakers and MPhA.

Medicaid Technical Amendment Bill Senate Bill: 2658

The Medicaid Technical Amendment Bill is still active in the 2022 legislative session. SB2658 aims to update the language currently in the Medicaid Technical bill to ensure that Mississippi Medicaid can reimburse with the methodology of NADAC plus \$11.29, based on NADAC of the date filled. Last year's Medical Technical bill froze NADAC based on what it was as of July 1, 2021. Surprisingly, there was not a lot of variance with NADAC from July to December 2021, but there have been significant changes beginning January 2022. For instance, a local pharmacy shared with MPhA that nearly \$300 was lost on one Austedo prescription in January; there were many other losses as well.

What to watch for:

Hopefully, SB2658 will not only fix the issue of unfreezing NADAC, but it will also allow for reimbursement to pharmacies for the money lost since July 2021.

Pharmacy Benefit Prompt Pay Act Revision: HB733

The revision of the Pharmacy Benefit Prompt Pay Act aims to add clear definitions including but not limited to PBM, NADAC, WAC, PSAO, etc. The bill will reign in unfair PBM practices in the state of Mississippi on commercial insurance plans and mandate that a pharmacy cannot be reimbursed less than NADAC plus \$11.29 dispensing fee. Also, HB733 gives the Miss. Board of Pharmacy more authority over PBMs and gives all pharmacies a fighting chance against unfair PBM practices.

BILLS THAT DIED IN SESSION

- **SB2109:** Nurse practitioners; authorize to dispense legend drugs to patients
- **SB2894:** Pharmacy Benefit Prompt Pay Act; revise
- **HB785:** Medicaid; remove provision that freezes provider reimbursement rates unless authorized by legislative amendment
- **HB1032:** Nurse practitioners; authorize to dispense legend drugs or medication to their patients
- **HB1091:** Pharmacies; authorize to perform centralized prescription filling for other pharmacies if certain conditions are met
- **HB682:** Pharmacists; authorize to test for and treat certain minor, nonchronic health conditions subject to certain requirements

For More Information



Medical Cannabis Bill - SB2095

Full bill can be viewed by clicking the following link or scanning the QR code.

<https://legiscan.com/MS/bill/SB2095/2022>



Medicaid Technical Amendment Bill - SB2658

Full bill can be viewed by clicking the following link or scanning the QR code.

<https://legiscan.com/MS/bill/SB2658/2022>



Pharmacy Benefit Prompt Pay Act Revision - HB733

Full bill can be viewed by clicking the following link or scanning the QR code.

<https://legiscan.com/MS/bill/HB733/2022>



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