

June 2020

News



Idaho State Board of Pharmacy

Published to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law

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Idaho Medicaid Grants Provider Status to Pharmacists

The Idaho Legislature passed and Governor Brad Little signed the Idaho Medicaid rules docket that included language to recognize Idaho pharmacists as non-physician practitioners, previously referred to as mid-level practitioners, which are comprised of the following types: “certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA), nurse practitioners (NP), nurse midwives (NM), clinical nurse specialists (CNS), pharmacists (RPh), and physician assistants (PA).” While the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy has no role in third-party reimbursement, the Board agreed to collaborate with Idaho Medicaid to assist with enrollment. The following is a note from Idaho Medicaid on the process of enrollment to be a provider. Please refer all questions to Idaho Medicaid.

Dear Colleague:

I am excited to announce that Idaho Medicaid has completed the final stages of system modifications to allow Idaho registered pharmacists to enroll as ordering, referring or prescribing providers (ORP). Enrolled pharmacists will be able to prescribe and provide services within the specifications allowed under the Idaho Pharmacy Act and bill Idaho Medicaid for their respective pharmacies for Idaho Medicaid payable drugs, medical supplies and services.

All pharmacists wishing to become an ORP for Idaho Medicaid must be formally enrolled. If Idaho Medicaid was able to match your license with an NPI [National Provider Identifier], you have been automatically enrolled. You are not required to fill out the attached application unless you feel that the information may not be up-to-date and/or wish to ensure all information is correct. Please review the provider agreement included with the application.

If you do not yet have an NPI and wish to enroll, please complete that process first and then complete

and return the enrollment forms at the following link [Idaho Medicaid provider](#).

For more information or further instructions, please contact Medicaid Provider Enrollment at 1-866/686-4272.

Sincerely,

Tami Eide PharmD, BCPS, FASHP
Idaho Medicaid Pharmacy Director

Culture of Safety Survey Results Available for Review

The Board continues to move forward with its plans to increase focus on developing a “culture of safety” or “*Just Culture*” approach to the practice of pharmacy in Idaho. A survey was conducted in late summer 2019, which has assisted in benchmarking the current state of practice for a few key markers. The results can determine a baseline to improve best practices. A total of 351 pharmacies across the state were surveyed and ranged from community pharmacies, including chain drugstores and independent outlets, to hospital inpatient settings and limited service operations. The questions asked ranged from medication safety incident reporting and accuracy checkpoints to electronic verification/dispensing and pharmacist prescribing capabilities.

Among the most interesting findings, nearly all pharmacies (97%) report medication safety incident in house but only half (47%) report to a patient safety organization (PSO); independent stores report the lowest usage at only 16%. Participation in PSOs may allow pooling of medication safety incident reporting to a much larger network of operations, and better facilitate learning from each other and avoiding medication safety incidents that others may have experienced.

Additional findings revealed that, in general, more independent stores reported the use of automation such as various types of counting machines, robots, and dispensing machines (overall, 68% of independent versus 51% of chain stores).

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