Making our Voice Louder
By Jon R. Roth, MS, CAE
Chief Executive Officer, CPhA

With 92% of the population living within five miles of a community pharmacy, pharmacists are widely recognized as the most accessible healthcare provider. Being the face of neighborhood healthcare, it is vital that our pharmacists and pharmacies are protected and able to provide medicine to their patients.

On May 31, 2019 a bureaucratic state decision made by former Governor Jerry Brown’s administration took effect, which denies life-saving medicines to Medi-Cal patients. It prevents community pharmacists from being able to provide vital medicines for California’s most vulnerable populations. So how did this happen? In the summer of 2016, CMS adopted a rule to change how pharmacies are paid for dispensing prescription medicines. CMS is requiring every state to adopt new rules to conform with the federal standard but did not say how states should do this.

The new methodology, developed by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has resulted in denying life-saving medicines for Medi-Cal patients. In fact, it has already started to result in catastrophic reductions to Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for hundreds of locally owned pharmacies that serve Medi-Cal patients.

And what’s worse, DHCS announced it is collecting two years of retroactive payments (clawback) from community pharmacies that currently serve Medi-Cal patients, dating back to April 2017.

So what does this all mean? About 3 million medically fragile beneficiaries stand to lose access to their essential, life-saving medicines. This includes particularly those patients with:

- HIV
- Behavioral Health challenges
- Cancer
- Seniors and adults with disabilities living in long-term care facilities

The new state rules will bankrupt many community pharmacies, effectively eliminating this important health care safety net for California’s most vulnerable populations.

With the well-being of patient access-to care at stake, CPhA established the Community Pharmacy Advocacy Group (CPAG) fund to support an independent community pharmacy led coalition, Californians for Access to Life-Saving Medicine. Over 300 community pharmacies have united under this coalition to help save community pharmacies and preserve patients’ access to health care.

Continued on page 3.
Celebrating the Fathers’ in our Pharmaly

I would like to wish all of the fathers and father figures within CPhA a Happy Father’s Day.

Pharmacy has been faced with a trying month as we left May and headed into June. The claw backs have begun, the legislative session is in full swing and we have recently had record temperatures that have affected the health and wellbeing of our patients. Even with all of these pressures and obstacles facing the profession, I was hearted to see so many of our independent owners, students and Schools of Pharmacy coming together to tackle these difficult issues.

If you have not already reviewed the materials regarding the claw backs please click here. There is one geared toward the membership and one focused toward the public. Please review this material and help spread the word. Access to medications for some of our most vulnerable patients is what is at risk and as pharmacists, we are the face of neighborhood health.

It may be summer, but we, the members of CPhA, are hard at work for our profession and patients in California. Many of the local chapters are preparing for summer membership events, House of Delegates, CPhA policy reviews, meeting with their local officials, serving on taskforces and reviewing local policies and/or bylaws.

Our new officers will soon be announced for the upcoming year and we are seeking candidates for Speaker of the House. I am amazed at the diligence and passion that our members have put forth in this past month. I urge each of us to take a few minutes this week to spend time with our families and take assessment of why we do what we do.

I am looking forward to seeing how the locals celebrated Father’s Day. I would love to see these activities highlighted in Member Insights, so please share any photos or highlights with Joe Page, by sending them to jpage@cpha.com.

Happy Father’s day to all of the new, junior and senior fathers, and father figures in both the membership and the staff of CPhA.

Veronica T. Bandy, PharmD, MS, FCPhA, FCSHP, BCACP
CPhA President
Making a Louder Voice Together (Continued)

In a short period of time, we have seen our efforts and engagement from pharmacists make our voice heard. We filed a lawsuit on May 31, 2019 to challenge the Medi-Cal clawback and go-forward rates; Assembly Member Jim Wood sent a letter to DHCS Director and provided this video interview urging DHCS halt the two-year clawback; and 430 community pharmacies and pharmacists sending a joint pharmacy letter to Governor Newsom.

We will continue to hold our foot down on the gas pedal as we fight for our pharmacists and pharmacies. We have several town hall meetings scheduled throughout California, and will continue to provide a weekly series of newsletters addressing Medi-Cal and PBM news.

For more information and updates on CPAG, or to get involved, please visit www.cpha.com/rx-fairness.
On to the Second House

Several legislative deadlines have now passed including the "house of origin" deadline. A significant number of bills died or were held in Appropriations Committee of each house. Over 2,700 bills were introduced at the beginning of the legislation session, today 1,588 bills are moving through the second house.

Overall, things are going well for CPhA and we have had a number of successes in addressing bills of concern to the organization. Much of the amendments we have requested have been accepted and several bills of concern did not make it out of the first house.

CPhA, working with our grassroots network, was successful in passage of our priority sponsored bill, SB 159 (Wiener) which would authorize a pharmacist to initiate and furnish preexposure prophylaxis and postexposure prophylaxis when specified requirements are met.

Despite significant opposition from CMA and other physician groups, the bill passed with overwhelming support from the policy and fiscal committees and with nearly unanimous support on the Senate Floor. To date, the bill has received only one “NO” vote.

However, we cannot underestimate CMA’s desire to kill this bill.

SB 617 (Glazer) which would have allowed an employer to utilize a ratio of three pharmacy technicians (PTs) to one pharmacist if the employer and one or more labor organizations representing the employed pharmacists, PTs, or a combination of the two have entered into a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) agreeing to that ratio. We worked closely with UNAC/UHW and the chain stores that were also opposed to the bill. It was held in Senate Appropriations by the chair and made a two-year bill meaning it cannot be heard again this year.

There is one remaining bill of significant concern, AB 1468 (McCarty & Gallagher) which requires opioid manufacturers or wholesalers to submit specified information to the Department of Public Health for the purpose of being taxed to raise $50,000,000 to fund local opioid abuse prevention and treatment centers. CPhA has argued that while the bill intends to tax manufacturers and wholesalers, the tax will ultimately be paid by entities at the end of the pharmaceutical supply chain, including community pharmacies, clinics and hospitals without any ability to pass the cost of the tax on to consumers. CPhA is working with a coalition of industry and patient advocacy organizations to oppose the bill.

The next few months will see a flurry of activity as there are only a couple of months remaining of this legislative session. Please respond to RxAlerts to help ensure that CPhA has another successful legislative year.

If you have any legislative questions, please reach out to Michelle Rivas, Vice President of CPhA’s Center for Advocacy at mrivas@cpha.com.
collaborative practice agreements

a resource for pharmacists

new on-demand course

Pharmacists are often cited as the most accessible health care professional. Over 85% of the US population lives within 5 miles of a community pharmacy. Pharmacists can improve patients’ health when they are part of the patient’s health care team.

One way to meet this goal is with a Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) between pharmacists and other health care providers. This course will review different approaches to building relationships with other healthcare providers that can lead to establishing a CPA and provide resources that can easily be adapted to any practice.

register now
cpha.com/CPA

Get the latest on specialty pharmacy trends in the industry! CPhA’s Getting Into the Specialty Pharmacy Business Conference is on Oct. 19-20 in Garden Grove.

Target audience includes pharmacy staff, consultants, managers, directors, and executives from specialty pharmacy providers, infusion pharmacies, pharma/biotech manufacturers, managed care organizations, group purchasing organizations, institutional pharmacies, distributors, and suppliers.

register now:
cpha.com/event/specialty-pharmacy

Check out our On-Demand Courses, available online, for education you can access from home, on your time.

Here are some examples of the courses you can find at www.CPhA.com:

- Cannabis Use & Distribution
- Community Pharmacy Accreditation Process
- Smoking Cessation Training Program
- Hydrocodone-Combination Products
- Hydrocodone-Combination Products Rescheduled from C-III to C-I
- Identifying and Responding to Opioid Abuse in the Community Pharmacy
- Naloxone: Fundamentals for Pharmacists Dispensing to Caregivers and Patients at Risk for Opiate and Opioid Toxicity
- Setting Up Your Practice for Furnishing Hormonal Contraceptives in California
- The Changing Landscape of Emergency Contraception
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/22</td>
<td>Anticoagulation Certificate Program</td>
<td>Pasadena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/20</td>
<td>Delivering Medication Therapy Management Services</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/20-7/21</td>
<td>Leadership Development Weekend</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Pharmacist</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>Pharmacy Law Conference</td>
<td>Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Pharmacist</td>
<td>Pasadena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>Pharmacist and Patient-Centered Diabetes Care</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery</td>
<td>Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Travel Health Services Certificate Program</td>
<td>Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Collaborative Practice Agreement Workshop</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Travel Health Services Certificate Program</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Pharmacist and Patient-Centered Diabetes Care</td>
<td>Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Pharmacist</td>
<td>Northern CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12-10/13</td>
<td>Specialty Pharmacy</td>
<td>Garden Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery</td>
<td>La Jolla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease Risk Management</td>
<td>Pasadena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Pharmacist</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Member Spotlight

Karl Hess, PharmD, APh, CTH, FCPhA

“CPhA has provided a great environment to meet and network with colleagues in pharmacy and has been a place that I can consistently come back to with my pharmacy friends to reconnect.”

Dr. Karl Hess has been an engaged member of CPhA and as Editor-in-Chief, helped transition the California Pharmacist to a national, peer-reviewed publication, Journal of Contemporary Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Hess also serves on the Advisory Board for the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education.

Some of Dr. Hess’ career accomplishments have been:

- Fellow of CPhA (2011)
- Founding member of Pharmacist Professional Group Steering Council for the International Society of Travel Medicine
- Associate Member of the Faculty of Travel Medicine for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, Scotland
- APhA Representative

Dr. Hess is currently Vice Chair for the Department of Clinical and Administrative Sciences, Associate Professor, and Certificate Track Coordinator for the Medication Therapy Outcomes Track at the Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. When asked about plans for the future, Dr. Hess expressed his sincere interest in working towards becoming a Dean at a School/College of Pharmacy to help advance the pharmacy profession through student education.

Aside from his ongoing service to the profession, association and KGI, Dr. Hess enjoys spending quality time with his two children, Benjamin and Zoey.
CLAIM AND WIN!

Claim your FREE Pharmacist Profile and you’ll be entered to win a $100 Amazon Gift Card!*

Claim yours today
at PharmacyProfiles.com

Everyone is a winner when they have their Pharmacist Profile!

Pharmacy Profiles helps you keep your professional credentials up-to-date. This is vital as your professional services role and the scope of pharmacy practice expands.

- Track all of your professional information in one place
- Document your capabilities to provide advanced patient care services
- Ensure you are recognized as a health care provider

*To be entered to win, you must have a California pharmacist license and claim your Pharmacist Profile between June 13 – July 7, 2019.
Pharmacy Quality™ COMMITMENT+

Mistakes can happen. Don’t put your pharmacy at risk.

MAKE YOUR PATIENTS AND YOUR PHARMACY SAFER.

FOR LESS THAN A DOLLAR A DAY, OUR QA PROGRAM HELPS ...

• Increase patient safety – learn from collected safety data and online resources
• Maintain compliance – meet accreditation, credentialing, PBM and state QA requirements
• Reduce costs – increase operations efficiency, reduce potential risk and cut down on “re-do” Rxs
• Safeguard your data – Patient Safety Organizations offer confidentiality and legal protection

Learn more at www.medicationsafety.org or call us at (866) 365-7472.
The Alliance of Medication Safety (APMS) is a federally listed Patient Safety Organization (PSO).
Welcome New CPhA Pharmacist Members

May 2019

Alameda County Pharmacists Association
Julita Agwumezie

Central Valley Pharmacists Association
Sheldon Kong

Contra Costa Pharmacists Association
Nkechi Onuoha
Rebecca Tam

Greater Los Angeles Pharmacists Association
Kelly Ahn
Joon Choi
Soon Chung
Jay Yoon Im
Hee Kim
Miye Kim
Angel Lee
Sang Lee
Inae Oh
Bo Park
Sun Wha Park
James Song
Rama Sou
Payam Tizabgar
Jay Yamamoto

Imperial County Pharmaceutical Association
Sangati Patel

Kern County Pharmacists Association
Karen Kim

Inland Empire Pharmacists Association
Diane Ahn
Yong Chang
Nguyen Dao
James Lee

Orange County Pharmacists Association
Inseek Ham
Jason Lebowitz
Peter Lee
Lisa Nguyen
Andrea Park
Rina Shah

Pharmacists Professional Society of the San Fernando Valley
Adrine Martirosyan

Sacramento Valley Pharmacists Association
Calvin Peng

San Diego County Pharmacists Association
Frank Brower
Amira Nour El-Din
Ella Solis

San Gabriel Valley Pharmacists Association
Eunju Chong
Anait Davtyan
Jason Kim
Gayane Kirakosyan
Mai Thai
Shiu Yan

San Joaquin Pharmacists Association
Kathleen Rawe
Lakshimi Sriharsha Bingi