

Our Members Chart the Course for NCPA



Pharmacy has no shortage of organizations. Many years ago I remember asking my dad, a pharmacy owner, to help me decipher all of the different pharmacy groups. He wasn't a big pharmacy organization guy, but I do remember that he had good things to say about NCPA (NARD at the time). So good, in fact, that he bought memberships for all of the pharmacists that worked for him. Back then, today, and tomorrow, NCPA is a member-driven organization. From our work to spark grassroots activities, to the NCPA House of Delegates which sets NCPA policy, to the NCPA Board of Directors (made up of pharmacy owners from all over the country), our members drive our agenda.

One example of that is the annual survey we do of NCPA members asking them to guide us on their top advocacy priorities and what programs NCPA can offer to help you develop your business. For 2016, the advocacy priorities are slow and low MAC updates, addressing the growth in unpredictable direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) fees by PBM corporations, and allowing "any willing pharmacy" to participate in Medicare Part D plans. On the business development side, the first priority is assistance in creating independent community pharmacy pay-for-performance networks. The second was developing programs that help pharmacies start new revenue-generating services. The third was programs on quality measures and Star Ratings, and their effects on pharmacies.

This month at our headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area, we will host our annual NCPA Steering Committee meetings. There are eight committees, invited by the NCPA president, and made up of some of the most progressive pharmacists in the country. This is a select invitation to approximately 100 of the top pharmacy owners in the country. There are always more great candidates than room on the roster. For me, this meeting is one of the highlights of the year.

Here is a list of the NCPA committees that will be meeting here and their areas of concern.

Technology: Addresses current technologies used by community pharmacies and anticipates future technology needs that will position community pharmacy to be on the cutting edge of patient care and business success. Provides guidance on pharmacist development programs that will enable pharmacists to gain efficiencies and for interoperable communications with other health care providers.

Compounding: Provides expertise on issues and opportunities in compounding including developing business opportunities and challenges as well as regulatory opportunities and challenges. Provides insight into programs to assist pharmacists wishing to initiate or further develop their compounding practice.

Long-Term Care: Provides insight into

marketplace and regulatory opportunities and obstacles to pharmacists focused on senior care. Helps anticipate evolving trends affecting pharmacists and senior patients and suggests programs that prepare pharmacists with tools needed to adapt to the changes. Helps attract new members to the LTC division.

Management: Identifies the business management issues of most value to community pharmacy owners and develops strategies to maximize efficiencies. Anticipates new business management opportunities and challenges and helps develop programs to assist the membership to prepare and be successful.

National Legislation and Government Affairs: Committee is briefed on the national legislative issues affecting community pharmacy currently as well as those on the horizon. Provides experience and leadership to help the NCPA team with strategy development. Members use their experience and contacts to assist NCPA in reaching out to key pharmacy legislative and regulatory influencers.

State Legislation and Regulation: Helps develop and sharpen state advocacy strategy by contributing its experience and contacts. Identifies legislative or regulatory strategies needed to proactively expand business opportunities for community pharmacies.

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Emerging Models: Focuses on new patient care models, especially those associated with the “triple aim” of providing higher quality care at an appropriate cost while providing metrics to demonstrate population impact. Provides its expertise and insight on issues such as the pharmacist’s role caring for patients using specialty pharmaceuticals as well as concepts around pharmacy networks providing patient care services of value to payers.

Membership Task Force: Plan offerings to optimally appeal to members today and to the increasingly diversified members of tomorrow ■

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Douglas Hoey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "B." and last name "Hoey" being the most prominent parts.

B. Douglas Hoey, Pharmacist, MBA
NCPA Chief Executive Officer