



NCPA Launches Innovation Center to Advance New Pharmacy Practices

NCPA has established an Innovation Center, intended to further assist and speed the evolution of independent community pharmacies in a changing health care environment. The Innovation Center will develop and execute programs to inform and educate community pharmacists to realize new opportunities. It also will demonstrate, research, and support new and expanded roles for community pharmacists. This will be accomplished through peer-to-peer exchanges of best practices.

The 13-member board of directors is comprised of many leading community pharmacists and prominent partners of independent community pharmacies. NCPA CEO B. Douglas Hoey, Pharmacist, MBA, will serve as chairman of the board. Kurt Proctor, PhD, RPh, NCPA senior vice president, strategic initiatives, is the Innovation Center president. ■



ADVOCACY ALERT

Taking Action on DIRs

As a result of intensive NCPA lobbying efforts, 16 senators and 31 representatives have urged the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to issue its long-delayed policy guidance to PBMs and plan sponsors to fairly address DIR fees and price concessions in Medicare Part D. The guidance, as proposed, also states DIRs should be approximated or reflected at the time of dispensing.

Do your part and add to the more than 3,000 messages that NCPA members have already sent to Congress demanding action. Contact your lawmakers.

NCPA Tells FDA to Scrap Proposed Ban on Office Use, Other Compounding Issues

NCPA has called on the Food and Drug Administration to withdraw its proposed ban on office use compounding, a 30-day limit on anticipatory compounding, and additional requirements for prescriptions for compounded products to be considered "valid."

Overall, NCPA expressed concern that the FDA's draft guidance "will lead to decreased access to com-

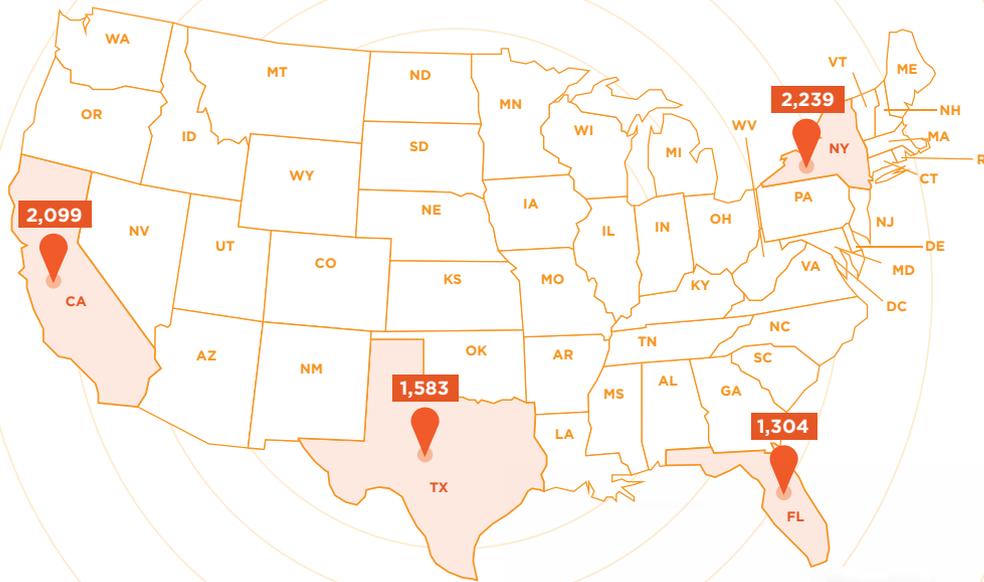
pounds and ultimately undermine the triad of care that exists between prescribers, pharmacists, and patients." NCPA added, "We are also very concerned with the FDA's continued attempts to preempt state laws when Congress did not give FDA this authority."





Independent Pharmacy Today

States With the Most Independent Community Pharmacies



Source: 2015 NCPA Digest, sponsored by Cardinal Health

THE AUDIT ADVISOR

Trading Inventory With Other Pharmacies Discouraged

Q: Is it OK to trade inventory with other pharmacies?

A: PAAS National has seen multiple large recoupments and a termination notice recently stemming from invoice audits conducted by Prime Therapeutics. The issue for the pharmacies affected is that they were buying or trading inventory with other pharmacies. Prime has decided to not accept anything that does not come from a wholesaler or manufacturer and is citing its provider manual as the reason.

Drug and Supply Requirements: Participating pharmacies must purchase all medications and supplies being dispensed to covered persons from verifiable licensed wholesalers. The ordering of these medications and supplies must be tracked using verifiable wholesale invoices and pedigree invoices (when required by applicable law). Prime reserves the right to not accept documentation from any wholesalers at any time when the invoice documentation cannot be verified.

PAAS wants to remind pharmacies that with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act, if you do continue to purchase or trade medications from other pharmacies, you have additional requirements to follow. However, we strongly discourage this practice on a routine basis due to the recoupments we have seen.

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