



Academy of
Managed Care
Pharmacy®

March 21, 2018

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair House Health and Government Operations

100 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1716- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and Insurance Carriers

Dear Delegate Pendergrass:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) strongly supports House Bill 1716. House Bill 1716 would allow carriers to request information for individual patient case reviews for determining medical necessity of a prescription, enhancing or coordinating patient care, or for assisting the treating provider's clinical decision making, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Health. AMCP supports this language because it will allow carriers to information that would ensure more comprehensive patient records and help them work with clinicians and patients to make more informed decisions on treatment options for pain management or addiction treatment.

AMCP is the nation's leading professional association dedicated to increasing patient access to affordable medicines, improving health outcomes and ensuring the wise use of health care dollars. Through evidence- and value-based strategies and practices, the Academy's 8,000 pharmacists, physicians, nurses and other practitioners, including members in Maryland, manage medication therapies for the 270 million Americans served by health plans, pharmacy benefit management firms, emerging care models and government.

AMCP supports prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) and state efforts to enhance their use and effectiveness. The impact of this legislation is particularly important within the context of the current opioid epidemic as another opportunity to address abuse and misuse of prescription opioids. Many inappropriate controlled substance prescriptions, including opioids, are purchased through cash-based transactions and not adjudicated to carriers that provide coverage for prescription drugs and pharmacy benefit managers. Thus, carriers that provide coverage for prescription drugs may be unaware of information necessary to establish a basis for inappropriate utilization or abuse.

Expanding PDMP access to carriers will allow them to increase their efforts to provide appropriate care for patients, support proper prescription drug utilization while enhancing patient coordination, and awareness of a carriers' treatment programs to address substance abuse. It will also assist carriers with the identification and prevention of prescription drug abuse and the identification and investigation of unlawful prescription drug diversion.

Therefore, AMCP supports this legislation and urges you to pass House Bill 1716. If you have any questions, you may contact AMCP's Director of Legislative Affairs, Reginia Benjamin, at (703) 684-2620 or rbenjamin@amcp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SCantrell", with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE

Chief Executive Officer