

Chapter Event Ideas

Planning various events around professional development, policy and advocacy, managed care education, and current managed care topics are essential for a strong Chapter presence. The events should be designed to promote the mission of AMCP. This section provides unique programming ideas outside of P&T, recruitment, and networking events.

Key Points

- Consider providing a mix of events throughout the year that caters to different levels of experience and interest in managed care.
- Events can focus on building managed care knowledge, developing and applying skills that will be beneficial for a career in managed care, and preparing your members for the job search and interview process

Chapter Events are the way that Chapters provide value to members. Similar to when you educate your Chapter members about managed care, it's important to consider that your members will have different levels of exposure to managed care when planning your Chapter events. Creating a combination of introductory and more advanced events will help ensure your Chapter provides value for all your members.

Generally, event types can be categorized in the following ways:

Building managed
care knowledge

Developing both
professional &
leadership skills

Preparing for a
professional career

Building Managed Care Knowledge

Managed care is generally a new concept for most students. After providing the basic introduction of managed care during recruitment (see "Explaining Managed Care" Toolbox document), it is important to keep building upon this knowledge for your members. Below are a few suggestions for how you can do this:

- Invite speakers from health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, industry, or academia to discuss relevant topics in managed care and the overall healthcare landscape. In addition to professionals discussing their career functions, invite them to provide mini-lectures that cover topics such as the drug supply chain, drug pricing basics, the role of data analytics in healthcare, innovative managed care strategies, health policy, and value-based contracting. Use AMCP conference education sessions for inspiration and aim to host one guest speaker per month.
- Find ways to keep members in touch with current events in managed care. For example, some Chapters have newsletters or monthly email blasts that highlight important managed care events in the news. Utilize social media to post key updates, manage care knowledge, and what's going on within current policy landscapes to keep members engaged.
- Utilize AMCP resources. If your school lacks faculty or a managed care network, many resources are available through AMCP. There is an entire section on the website that focuses on [what managed care pharmacy is](#). We also strongly encourage attending an AMCP conference or checking out the [AMCP Learn site](#), where students can enroll in online courses in both beginner and advanced managed care topics.

Developing and Applying Member's Skills

After providing your members with a basic foundation in managed care principles, Chapters can start to think about how they can help their members gain additional skill sets that they may need for a successful career in managed care.

Examples of relevant skills include the following:

- Problem-solving
- Critical analysis of literature
- Policy analysis
- Pharmacoeconomic modeling
- Verbal communication skills (formal and informal)
- Data interpretation and analysis
- Networking

Think about hosting interactive events throughout the year that can help your members build some of these skill sets, such as:

- **Workshops:** Consider organizing a half-day workshop for students to learn about and practice techniques such as pharmacoeconomic modeling or data analytics and build upon their presentation and teamwork skills. The ideal workshop would include lecture-based teaching and interactive cases that allow students to apply the newly-learned skills.
- **Journal Clubs:** These are a great opportunity for students to expand their knowledge on a specific topic, gain experience reviewing articles, and practice the art of persuasive discussion in front of a group. The organizer (e.g., student, faculty, and/or managed care pharmacist) can choose a specific topic in managed care, select relevant article(s) that student attendees would read before the journal club meeting, and prepare a list of discussion questions. Then, during the meeting, the group would actively discuss the topic. Examples of topic ideas can be found below and on the [AMCP website](#).
 - o Discuss a newly approved specialty pharmacy drug and debate what the coverage criteria should be after evaluating the landmark Phase III trial
 - o Discuss the implications of a new policy proposal such as the Medicaid expansion work examples or elimination of rebates
 - o Discuss the role of outcomes research in managed care by focusing on a case example or value-based contract published in the news
- **Webinar Discussions:** If you don't have the bandwidth to set up a journal club, there's still hope! AMCP offers several [educational webinars](#) on topics like drug utilization review and formulary design that are free for members. Consider hosting a meeting with members to watch one of the webinars and further discuss the topic afterward.

Professional Development Events

In addition to introducing your members to roles within managed care and creating networking opportunities for them (see “Professional Relations and Chapter Network” Toolbox document), Chapters have also hosted events to help their members be more successful as they prepare for their next career move. Events designed to enhance professional development skills can prepare your Chapter members for internships, residencies, fellowships, and other jobs.

Consider the following sample timeline of professional development events:

Month	Topics Covered	Suggested Speaker/Presenter
Sept – Nov	Basics of Professional Development Workshop: • How to create your CV • How to utilize LinkedIn • How to develop an elevator speech	Invite current residents or faculty members to review and provide feedback on student CVs.
	Introduction to Networking	Invite a motivational speaker and/or alumni to discuss how to network at conferences.
Oct – Dec (Plan accordingly as the fall semester can get busy with P&T competition)	Internship Panel	Invite students who completed an internship during the summer to discuss their experiences. Plan early on to ensure all speakers are available and enough students sign up for the event
	Managed Care Residency and Fellowship Panel	Invite current managed care residents or fellows to speak about their experiences.
	Navigating ASHP Personal Placement Service (PPS) or Midyear	Invite current first-year managed care residents or fellows to speak about their job search. This event should be geared towards fourth-year students.
Nov – Jan	Mock Interviews	Invite students, faculty, and/or professionals to lead mock interviews for internships and residencies.
Feb – Apr	Navigating ASHP Personal Placement Service (PPS) or Midyear: Fourth-Year Perspective	Invite fourth-year students that recently completed the residency process to discuss their experiences.

Additional AMCP Resources

- To see what other Chapters have planned, check out the following:
 - [AMCP Student Pharmacist Chapter Spotlight](#)
 - [Chapter Leadership Academy Projects](#) featured at AMCP Annual
- [Submit your event here](#) to be featured in the AMCP Student Pharmacist Chapter Spotlight.
- [Concepts in Managed Care Pharmacy Series](#): Series of papers written to explain managed care terms

- [Managed Care Pharmacy 101](#): a section of the AMCP website that gives an overview of managed care pharmacy
- [Fundamentals of Managed Care Pharmacy](#) certificate program: An online program with pricing for student members

Updated July 2025