

Pharmacist Recognition as a Healthcare Practitioner



Pharmacy Leaders. Transforming Patient Care.

Pharmacists are not currently recognized as healthcare practitioners under TIC §1451.

Texas Insurance Code Section §1451 does not recognize pharmacists as healthcare practitioners. Currently, the list of recognized practitioners includes physicians, nurses, optometrists, therapists, surgical assistants, acupuncturists, and dietitians. However, pharmacists are recognized as licensed healthcare providers under the Texas Occupations Code. This bill will simply add pharmacists to the list of recognized healthcare practitioners in the Texas Insurance Code.

Pharmacists are highly educated and trained healthcare professionals.

Students enrolled in a doctoral-level pharmacy program receive advanced training on all areas of patient-centered care, medication use systems management, health and wellness, and population-based care.¹ Students must complete at least 1,590 hours in direct patient care experiences within a variety of settings and gain valuable experience practicing as a member of a multidisciplinary team.² Many pharmacists choose to continue their post-graduate training by completing a one- (PGY-1) or two-year (PGY-2) residency, typically offered within a health-system, community, or managed care pharmacy. PGY-1 residency programs include a focus on providing safe and effective patient care to those who may have multiple co-morbidities and high-risk medication regimens in collaboration with the healthcare team and ensuring continuity of care during patient transitions.³ PGY-2 programs specialize in a variety of areas, including critical care, emergency medicine, geriatric pharmacy, infectious diseases, oncology, and pediatric pharmacy.⁴ In addition, pharmacists may also seek certification through the Board of Pharmacy Specialties as a board-certified pharmacist in a variety of specialty practice areas.⁵

Pharmacists play a key role in the healthcare team.

Optimal patient care takes a team and pharmacists serve as a key member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team. Pharmacists serve as medication experts, providing sustainable comprehensive medication management and medication optimization services. They serve patients in a variety of settings, including in hospitals, healthcare clinics, and other community settings. They also serve as a valuable resource to provide collaborative management of patients, with their contribution resulting in positive health outcomes and improved patient access to care.

Pharmacists are healthcare practitioners and should be added to TIC §1451.

Based on their education, training, and valuable contributions to the patient's healthcare team, pharmacists should be added to the list of healthcare practitioners under Texas Insurance Code §1451.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Mather, TSHP Executive Director, at (512) 906-0546 or stacey.mather@tshp.org or Brad Shields, TSHP Lobbyist, at (512) 413-2700 or brad@bradshields.com.

¹ "Accreditation Standards and Key Elements for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree," Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, Approved January 25, 2015.

² "Accreditation Standards and Key Elements for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree," Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, Approved January 25, 2015.

³ "Required competency Areas, Goals, and Objectives for Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) Pharmacy Residencies," American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

⁴ "PGY2 Competency Areas," American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, <https://www.ashp.org/Professional-Development/Residency-Information/Residency-Program-Directors/Residency-Accreditation/PGY2-Competency-Areas>.

⁵ "BPS Specialties," Board of Pharmacy Specialties, <https://www.bpsweb.org/bps-specialties/>.