



## The Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act of 2023 is Introduced in the Senate

On July 25, Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Mark Warner (D-VA) introduced the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services (ECAPS) Act of 2023 ([S. 2477](#)) in the Senate. The bill, which was introduced in the House of Representatives in March ([H.R. 1770](#)), allows Medicare to reimburse for select pharmacist-administered tests, treatments, and vaccinations for diseases such as influenza, COVID-19, and strep throat. AMCP thanks Senators Thune and Warner for acknowledging how critical pharmacists are in healthcare delivery across the country by introducing the bill in the Senate. Following the introduction, AMCP CEO Susan Cantrell stated that ECAPS “will create and extend coverage for pharmacists providing essential care, which is so important to seniors and other vulnerable patient groups, including rural communities.” AMCP looks forward to working with Members of Congress to secure the passage of this bill.

[Read Senator Thune’s press release.](#)

[Visit AMCP’s Pharmacy Care Resource Center](#) to learn more about ECAPS.

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## AMCP Hosts its First Virtual IRA Workshop

In September, CMS will release the list of the first ten drugs selected for price negotiation under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Given the lingering uncertainties around how this and other healthcare-related provisions of the IRA will be implemented, AMCP convened stakeholders from across healthcare fields for an inaugural IRA Workshop. The workshop, which was held virtually on Aug. 2, featured presentations from CMS officials and industry experts on subjects including inflationary rebates, the Drug Price Negotiation program, and out-of-pocket-smoothing for Medicare beneficiaries. In an [Aug. 9 blog post](#), AMCP CEO Susan Cantrell also highlighted the enlightening discussions held during the workshop's breakout sessions. "The conversations we had during our workshop breakout sessions — and the recommendations we gleaned — are precisely the type of engagement that will help lead to constructive solutions [with CMS]," Cantrell explained. AMCP's second virtual IRA Workshop, hosted on Nov. 15, will expand upon these conversations with additional insight from healthcare stakeholders.

Contact [corpopportunities@amcp.org](mailto:corpopportunities@amcp.org) now to secure your organization's spot at the November workshop.

## AMCP's Adam Colborn Discusses PBM, Medicaid Best Price, and PDT Legislation

This July, Adam Colborn, Director of Government Affairs at AMCP, sat down with Managed Healthcare Executive to discuss several trending topics in the managed care pharmacy policy space from the first half of 2023. In the two-part article published on July 25 and 26, Colborn first addresses the bipartisan appetite for PBM oversight legislation, as well as the expected impacts for managed care decision-makers. Colborn also mentions several other health policy bills with bipartisan support but limited



The poster for the AMCP NEXUS 2023 event features the AMCP logo at the top, followed by the event title 'NEXUS 2023' and the dates 'OCTOBER 16-19 ORLANDO'. Below this, a list of event highlights is presented with red circular icons: Networking Opportunities, Expert Insight, Continuing Education Credits, Poster Presentations, and Expo Hall. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains a red sunburst icon and the text 'Register Now'.

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interest to those not directly involved. These include the [MVP Act \(H.R. 2666\)](#), a bill that would “incentivize further use of value-based contracting for high-cost medications in the Medicaid program,” and the [Access to Prescription Digital Therapeutics \(PDTs\) Act \(S.723/H.R. 1458\)](#), which would establish reimbursement categories for these innovative treatments to be covered by Medicare. While the previous bills gain momentum in Congress, Colborn ends with the caveat that the “main thing everyone is thinking about is the IRA implementation. It’s probably 90% to 95% of what we hear about.”

Read [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) of the article.

### **Register for the IRA Pre-Conference Program at Nexus 2023**

AMCP’s IRA Pre-Conference Program at Nexus 2023 offers individuals the opportunity to uncover the current and anticipated impacts of the IRA. This program combines faculty expertise, panel discussion, and networking to grant attendees a new understanding of how stakeholders are responding to the rollout of the IRA. Held on Monday, Oct. 16 from 1 – 5:30pm ET in Orlando, Florida, this pre-conference program is open to all individuals. Registration for this program is separate from the AMCP Nexus 2023 registration fee.

[Register now.](#)

### **Is Now the Time for Prescription Digital Therapeutics?**

On July 31, Fred Goldstein, host of the AMCP Podcast Series – Listen Up!, interviewed Dr. Scott Whittle, Medical Director of Meridian Outcomes, to discuss how PDTs and other app-based treatments may help patients

navigate the complex world of behavioral health treatment, as well as ongoing provider shortages. When asked about the role of PDTs in treating behavioral health issues, Dr. Whittle highlights their role in facilitating patient engagement, both independent of and in conjunction with a human provider. In looking at the future of PDTs, Dr. Whittle adds that “patients are at the top of the list” of stakeholders set to benefit from increased PDT utilization. He closes by highlighting the need to increase and streamline provider adoption of PDTs, which AMCP supports through its advocacy around the Access to PDTs Act of 2023 (S. 723/H.R. 1458).

[Listen to the full podcast.](#)