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## AMCP Presents CMS with Preliminary Findings of Survey & Focus Group to Modernize Comprehensive Medication Review

### *Findings:* Standardized Format (SF) Should Include Consistent Domains That Can Be Integrated Into a Electronic Health Record

AMCP recently presented representatives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Part D group with preliminary research findings on how Part D beneficiaries perceive various aspects of medication therapy management (MTM) services. The goal of the research is to examine the Part D's standardized format (SF) of the comprehensive medication review (CMR) and provide recommendations for CMS to consider for modernization based on a beneficiary perspective. This survey represents the largest sampling of beneficiaries' insights on the SF to date. The survey examined perceptions and utility of the SF to inform potential modifications for optimal use.

The SF was designed to provide a template of expected content following an MTM review, known as a CMR under Part D. Beneficiaries find the MTM CMR valuable and would recommend it to friends or relatives if they needed help with their medications, according to the research. But the SF has been criticized by beneficiaries, providers and Part D plans in part because of its inability to integrate with electronic medical records and lack of portability. In addition, there is limited evidence to show the SF assists in beneficiary engagement and outcomes.

The research, conducted by AMCP through the Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, queried beneficiaries on their: awareness of the SF; overall value of the SF; content/usability of the SF; delivery method for the SF; and portability of the SF. The research included both a focus group of beneficiaries and caregivers and a national survey. The national survey distributed electronically through a network of AMCP's partners who participate as Medicare Part D plans or as entities that provide MTM services. AMCP's MTM Advisory Group, a broad stakeholder pharmacy group representing managed care organizations, community and retail, long-term care, specialty pharmacy and MTM service providers helped to identify survey participants and build content.

According to the preliminary findings, the SF should include consistent domains that can be integrated into an electronic health record. In addition, respondents said the information should then be adaptable into different formats, such as a wallet card, to meet the needs of beneficiaries or caregivers.

AMCP and the University of Maryland continue to evaluate the final survey data and will present the results for publication. The findings from the focus group conducted in the Spring of 2018 will be presented as a [poster](#) at AMCP's Nexus Meeting. AMCP has encouraged CMS to use this information to modernize the CMR to make the information more useable for beneficiaries and their caregivers. This data could also be used to inform other ways to better engage Medicare beneficiaries in their care which is a key goal for AMCP members, CMS and the health care system. AMCP will provide updates on the results of the survey as they become available.

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## Regulatory Update

### CMS Releases Star Ratings for 2019 Part D Prescription Drug Plans

On Oct. 10, CMS [released](#) its 2019 Star Ratings for Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug plans. Every year, CMS determines the quality of Medicare Advantage and Part D plans through a variety of performance measures. An overall star rating is calculated for each plan on a scale of 1 to 5 stars with 5 stars representing top-rated plans. CMS data shows that approximately 31 percent of stand-alone prescription drug plans will have a rating of four stars or higher in 2019. Compared with 2018, the data for 2019 shows fewer standalone Medicare Part D plans that received four- or five-star ratings. AMCP is currently analyzing the Star Ratings and will provide a more extensive summary.

### CMS Announces New Proposed Rule on Disclosing Drug Prices in DTC TV Ads

On Oct. 15, CMS released a [new proposed rule](#) that would require prescription drug manufacturers to disclose the list prices for U.S. prescription drugs in direct-to-consumer television ads in an effort to provide greater transparency to list prices set by drug manufacturers. The proposed rule would require direct-to-consumer television advertisements for prescription drug and biological products paid for by Medicare or Medicaid to include the Wholesale Acquisition Cost if it is greater than \$35 for a month's supply or the usual course of therapy. Prices will be updated quarterly.

HHS Secretary Alex Azar remarked that "This historic proposal is an important way to create new incentives for drug companies to start lowering their list prices, rather than raising them." The proposed rule stems from the [American Patients First blueprint](#) to bring down prescription drug prices, released in May 2018, that called for HHS to consider requiring the inclusion of list prices in direct-to-consumer advertising.

AMCP has not taken a position in pricing in DTC ads, but has a [policy](#) that supports DTC ads that increases public awareness about disease symptoms, informs consumers about available treatments and

## Advocacy Tip

Midterm elections are just around the corner. Remember to go out and vote on Tuesday, November 6th!

diagnostics procedures and encourages a health lifestyle. Furthermore, AMCP supports DTC that promotes patient engagement and information that increases knowledge about a disease state or the importance of adherence and good outcomes. AMCP discourages advertising that promotes the use of a specific product.

Comments on the proposed rule [can be submitted](#) to CMS through Dec. 17. AMCP plans to submit comments consistent with our policy.

## Federal and State Legislative Update

### House, Senate Recess Until After Midterms

Both chambers of Congress have recessed until after the midterm elections. The House adjourned on Sept. 28, and the Senate followed on Oct. 11. President Trump on Oct. 10 signed into law both S. 2553 and S.2554, prohibiting “gag clauses,” and he is expected to sign the compromise opioid legislative package (H.R. 6) shortly. Congress will return for a lame duck session after the elections where it could consider additional legislation of interest to AMCP on opioids and payor and manufacturer communications. AMCP will apprise you of any action and will send grassroots’ action alerts as issues are raised.

### State Update

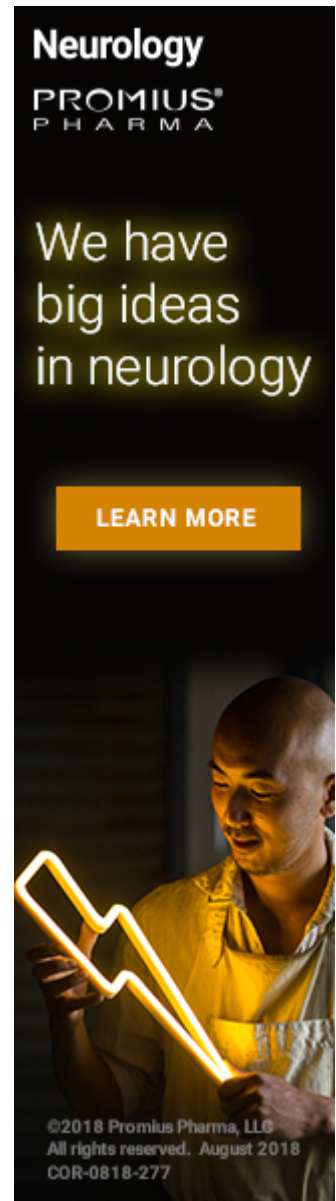
Most states also have recessed for the year, with Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania meeting intermittently. Going into the midterm elections, 36 governor seats are up for grabs in 2018, with 19 incumbent governors running for re-election. For more information on legislative and regulatory action in 2018, attend the “Legislative and Regulatory Update” at the AMCP Nexus Meeting scheduled for Oct. 23 at 9:50am – 11:20am in Orlando, Florida! Visit [www.amcpmeetings.org/](http://www.amcpmeetings.org/) for more information.

### AMCP Call for State Advocacy Coordinators

AMCP is seeking members in several states to volunteer as State Advocacy Coordinators (S.A.Cs.). These volunteers serve as the AMCP’s go-to members in each state, and are called upon to inform legislators, stakeholders and other AMCP members on advocacy efforts at both the state and federal levels. States can have more than one S.A.C., so if you are interested and there is already an S.A.C. listed for your state, please contact us. Currently, 25 states and the District of Columbia need a S.A.C. For more information on becoming a S.A.C, [click here](#) to see the role of a S.A.C., which states are available, and to access the application form. If you are interested in becoming an S.A.C and will be attending AMCP Nexus in Orlando Oct. 22-25, please stop by the State Advocacy Coordinator Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Atlanta Room. For more information: [www.amcpmeetings.org/](http://www.amcpmeetings.org/)

### Call for Diplomats

AMCP is looking for new student chapter Diplomats! Diplomats are AMCP members who volunteer to work with a school/college of pharmacy as a resource for student pharmacists and faculty. They are utilized to further the awareness and education of managed care pharmacy. Visit the [AMCP Diplomat Center](#) for an open position today!



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Mary Jo Carden, RPh, JD, Vice President, Government and  
Pharmacy Affairs, [mcarden@amcp.org](mailto:mcarden@amcp.org)