

## AMCP Expresses Concerns with State Legislation Restricting Managed Care Pharmacists

On May 29, AMCP expressed concerns regarding the Illinois Healthcare Protection Act ([HB 5395](#)), passed by the state's General Assembly on May 25. The legislation unduly restricts managed care pharmacists from effectively managing prescription drug benefits for millions of Illinoisians covered by state sponsored insurance plans, including the state's Medicaid program, state employee group insurance, and fully insured commercial plans. The bill specifically bans step therapy protocols, imposes significant requirements on plans' utilization review programs, and grants the Illinois Department of Insurance the authority to review premium rate changes for large-group health plans. AMCP strongly supports the role of utilization management in reducing the cost and increasing the efficacy of prescription drug benefits. While AMCP supports efforts to promote transparency and establish reasonable prior authorization and step therapy program exclusion criteria requirements, HB 5395 severely limits Illinois health plans' ability to implement important safeguards that promote patient safety and reduce healthcare spending.

Read AMCP's [full statement on Illinois HB 5395](#).



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## AMCP, Patient and Provider Groups Applaud Supreme Court Ruling on Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine et al. v FDA et al.

On June 13, AMCP joined 24 patient and provider organizations in applauding the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling reversing the Fifth Circuit's decision in Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine et al. v FDA et al. The Supreme Court ruled that plaintiffs did not have standing to challenge FDA's ability to make available mifepristone, which is prescribed for the treatment of several life-threatening conditions including cancer. FDA's role in assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of prescription drugs has yielded approval of countless medications and devices for patients with serious health conditions. However, signatories to the joint letter remain concerned that different plaintiffs will continue to challenge FDA's authority and will seek to block or limit access to other FDA-approved treatments for reasons unrelated to safety and efficacy. AMCP and the undersigned organizations previously warned of this prospect in [an Amicus Brief](#) filed on Jan. 30 of this year.

Read the [full joint statement](#).

## AMCP Publishes Brief on Operational Readiness Covering Prescription Digital Therapeutics

On March 6, AMCP convened a focus group of experts from commercial health plans, PBMs, and state Medicaid programs to discuss operationalizing the coverage of prescription digital therapeutics (PDTs) by health payers. The focus group covered several issues, including evidentiary standards that justify coverage for PDTs, coding practices required to facilitate coverage, considerations for benefit design, unique supply chain and reimbursement requirements, and federal legislation that would authorize Medicare coverage of PDTs. As a result of the focus group's findings, AMCP developed an operational readiness brief intended to prepare the American health care system to begin covering PDTs. The brief provides health payers with unique considerations for evaluating PDTs for coverage, while offering insight for PDT developers into the needs of payers to better inform the development of PDT products and informational materials. While PDTs offer new avenues in treating certain conditions and expanding access to care, focus group participants agreed that these innovative products require new approaches to coverage.

Read the full [Operational Readiness brief](#).



The banner features the AMCP logo at the top, a yellow bar with the text 'NEWLY UPDATED', and the title 'AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions 5.0' in bold blue text. Below the title is a purple button with the word 'DOWNLOAD' in white. At the bottom, there is a thumbnail image of the document cover, which includes the text 'JMCP AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions 5.0' and 'Guidance on Submission of Proposed and Proposed Clinical and Evidence Information and Evidence'.

## **PBMs, Cost Sharing Eyed by State Legislators**

On May 29, [Specialty Pharmacy Continuum](#) published an article on state-level PBM legislation, which features several quotes from members of AMCP's Government Affairs team. Adam Colborn, AMCP's Director of Government Affairs, stated that drug pricing trends seen across states fall into the following four categories: transparency, PBM income, drug cost sharing, and controlling state costs. PBM transparency bills, introduced by dozens of states, often include requirements to report total drug spend, total pharmacy compensation, patient cost sharing, and other related metrics. Common provisions in other state bills include restrictions on spread pricing and requirements for PBMs to pass rebates through health plans or apply said rebates at the point-of-sale, as well as copay caps designed to provide cost relief to patients at the pharmacy counter. Tom Casey, Manager of Government Affairs at AMCP, added that many states intend to implement prescription drug affordability boards (PDABs), which analyze prescription drug costs and recommend policies to states to lower prescription drug spending. When discussing the impacts of state-level PBM legislation, Colborn shared that "many policies first enacted by states were later implemented at the federal level and provide a good barometer for [nationwide] legislative trends."

Read the full [PBM legislation article](#).

## **Managed Care Pharmacy Advocates Travel to Capitol Hill for AMCP Legislative Days 2024**

From May 13–15, dozens of managed care pharmacy advocates traveled to Washington, D.C. for the 2024 AMCP Legislative Days fly-in. Advocates enjoyed two days of networking receptions, Continuing Pharmacy Education sessions, and legislative advocacy training seminars, which were followed by a day of meetings with Members of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill. During these meetings, AMCP advocates requested support from their legislators for AMCP's highest legislative priorities, the [Medicaid Value-Based Purchasing Arrangements for Patients \(MVP\) Act \(H.R. 2666/S. 4204\)](#) and the [Access to Prescription Digital Therapeutics Act \(H.R. 1458/ S. 723\)](#). During the fly-in, AMCP advocates participated in a total of 83 meetings, covering 25 states, 46 Senate offices, and 37 House of Representatives offices. Following the event, AMCP secured cosponsorship of the Access to PDTs Act from Senator Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne (R-TX), and Congresswoman Deborah Ross (D-NC), while Congresswoman Van Duyne also agreed to cosponsor the MVP Act. On Tuesday, May 14, AMCP also awarded the Achievement in Pharmacy Policy awards to Congressman Kevin Hern (R-OK) and Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) for their work in introducing

the Access to PDTs Act this year.

Read more about AMCP Legislative Days in [AMCP CEO Susan Cantrell's May 29 blog post](#).

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