



Internal Medicine Center
55 Arch Street
Suite 1B
Akron, Ohio 44304-1698

Phone (330) 375-3315
Fax (330) 375-7779
Toll Free 1-800-460-3254

Michael W. Rich, M.D.
Director

Troy W. Bishop, M.D.
Linda P. Ha, M.D.
Ron R. Jones, M.D.
Bradley A. Moore, Jr., M.D.
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Internal Medicine and
Palliative Medicine

Dixa Dhital, M.D.
Palliative Medicine and Hospice

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Diabetes Care Management

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Diane Duff, R.N., CRNP
Nurse Practitioners

Debra Hershberger
Practice Manager

Thomas Balchak, MSW
Social Worker

summahealth.org

Rex Wilford, DO, RPh, FACP
Summa Health System Akron City Hospital Internal Medicine Center
55 Arch Street Suite 1B
Akron, Ohio 44304

May 20, 2015

The Honorable Representative Anne Gonzalez
House Building
1 Capitol Square, Second Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Honorable Gonzalez and Members of the House Health and Aging Committee,

I would like to draw your attention to House Bill 188 also known as the pharmacist consult agreement legislation.

As a constituent, physician, and a pharmacist, it's important to me that my neighbors and my patients are able to receive safe and effective care by pharmacists at the health systems and pharmacies in our community.

Pharmacists are increasingly taking on more direct patient care responsibilities, like monitoring patient responses to their medicines, preventing undesired drug interactions, and ensuring that patients taking multiple medications do not receive overlapping, duplicative, or contraindicated therapies.

Collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) is the combined effort of the healthcare team, specifically the pharmacist and the physician, in order to assist the patient in reaching safe and effective medication results. The current Ohio CDTM or consult agreement statute (ORC 4729.39) significantly hampers the ability of the pharmacist to effectively assist patients in reaching their healthcare goals.

Hypertension, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia can significantly impact the health of Ohioans often leading to heart attack, heart surgeries, stroke, blindness and dialysis. Often these diseases are treated with multiple medications, increasing the complexity and cost for patient. These diseases can be effectively managed with the help of the pharmacist. Changes in the statute would ensure that patients receive the safest, most effective medicines to treat their conditions and support compliance with drug therapies.


Major Teaching Affiliate

In our internal medicine center, the pharmacist has been a key component in improving our overall patient population diabetes mellitus control, blood pressures and cholesterol levels. The clinic pharmacist has also improved our management of anticoagulation medications. I can say without doubt she has been a tremendous addition to our clinical team, and her ability to practice to the top extent of her license will allow improved patient care in the future.

Please consider adding your support to the bill. This bill, if signed into law, will allow pharmacists a greater role around improving patient care for all Ohioans. I would welcome the opportunity to begin an ongoing dialogue with your office about health care and medication-use issues. I will follow up with your office to discuss any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rex Wilford, DO, RPh, FACP
Summa Health System Akron City Hospital Internal Medicine Center
55 Arch Street Suite 1B
Akron, Ohio 44304