



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

May 6, 2020

Chairman Manning
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for Senate Bill 303 which provides clarity around the current pharmacist consult agreement law to explicitly allow pharmacists to provide collaborative patient care with advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) including certified nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse-midwives and physician assistants (PAs).

Multidisciplinary, patient and family-centered care is a cornerstone of delivering high quality healthcare. In our organization, physicians, APRNs, PAs, pharmacists, and many other professionals collaborate together to manage the clinical care of our patients, with the physician serving as the 'quarterback' of our team. In most cases, medical residents who are physician trainees, APRNs and PAs order many of the medications which may require modification as patient care is optimized. Current law is not explicit regarding pharmacists' ability to collaborate with these practitioners, which is critical for effective patient care.

Pharmacists are the medication experts on the clinical care team. The standard of education for pharmacists is 6-8 years of college education leading to a doctoral degree. Many pharmacists pursue post-graduate residency training and board certification in their respective areas of expertise. The primary focus of pharmacists' education and their practice is on managing medications to optimize disease state management.

At Nationwide Children's, pharmacists work in all care settings in collaboration with their physician and APRN/PA colleagues. Consult agreements are applicable in both inpatient and outpatient practice settings. In inpatient areas, pharmacists may make adjustments to medications as renal function changes, based on drug levels, and optimize therapies as clinical conditions change. In the outpatient setting, pharmacists may see patients to monitor and adjust medications, extending ability of practitioners to see patients requiring other care or as part of a patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model.

Explicitly authorizing pharmacist consult agreements with APRNs and PAs clarifies that pharmacists may effectively manage medication therapy with the entire patient care team and under the direction of the attending physician, allowing for optimal patient care management across the State of Ohio. Thank you for considering passage of this important legislation to advance patient care.



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