



April 14, 2014

The Honorable Tim Murphy
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Murphy,

On behalf of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP), we are writing to congratulate you on the introduction of H.R. 3717, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act and to applaud your leadership in working to develop a more comprehensive approach to assisting patients and families of persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists is an association of pharmacists dedicated to improving the minds and lives of those affected by neurologic disorders and severe and persistent mental illness. Our members are largely comprised of board certified psychiatric pharmacists who apply their clinical knowledge and skills in a variety of healthcare settings and positions ranging from education to research to clinical practice with the goal to apply evidence-based, cost efficient best practices in achieving patient recovery and improving quality of life.

In line with your goal of reforming mental health services to optimize patient care, CPNP is committed to continually providing patients and families with education about their diseases and treatment. Psychiatric pharmacists are members of psychiatric treatment teams and provide direct patient care, medication management and active medication education of patients and their families. CPNP recognizes that psychiatry is one of the most rapidly evolving disciplines in medicine. We also understand the high incidence of medication-related problems in people treated for psychiatric conditions. Adverse effects, high costs, and co-occurring substance use disorders can contribute to poor treatment adherence and poor patient outcomes.

CPNP is working with the American College of Clinical Pharmacists (ACCP) to promote comprehensive medication management (CMM), by clinical pharmacists, for patients with complex chronic conditions including severe and persistent mental illness. CMM is a clearly defined, evidence-based process for optimizing medication use and has been adopted as the gold standard for integration in the patient-centered medical home by the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC). Comprehensive medication management has been shown to improve outcomes and reduce overall health care costs.

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We believe that as a comprehensive benefit under Medicare Part B provided by qualified clinical pharmacists, CMM will positively impact patient centered care, in line with your goals of more accountability, better patient care and improved outcomes. Therefore, as we proceed with the pursuit of a legislative ask, we encourage you to meet with members of our coalition to better understand how clinical pharmacists can contribute to more comprehensive patient care and to consider adding CMM provided by board certified psychiatric pharmacists to your bill.

Again, we applaud your efforts in H.R. 3717, promoting improved mental health care services, and we encourage you to consider how psychiatric pharmacists can be a part of the solution. We welcome any questions you have, and look forward to dialogue as you work toward improving the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Julie A. Dopheide'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Dopheide, PharmD, BCPP
CPNP President

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