

Psychiatric Pharmacists: A Leading Solution to the Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage

Patients Living With Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Have Complex Medical Needs Leading to...

2-3X higher mortality rate with **60%** of early mortality due to inadequately treated medical conditions¹



Higher risk of cardiovascular disease and related death²



Medications that can **cause or exacerbate** some medical conditions³



More concomitant medications and co-occurring conditions³



Frequent medication non-adherence costing **\$30 billion annually** in additional health expenditures⁴



Medication non-optimization leading to a cost of over **\$500 billion annually** in additional health expenditures⁵



THE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) WORKFORCE NEED IS GREAT



Only **46.2%** of people living with a mental illness in the U.S. received treatment in the past year⁶



Only **5.7%** of people with both a mental illness and SUD received treatment for both disorders⁶



Only **11.2%** of the **2.5 million** Americans with opioid use disorder (OUD) received medication treatment in 2020⁶



By 2024, the psychiatrist shortage is projected to be between **14,280** and **31,091**⁷



By 2030, the projected shortage of adult psychiatrists is estimated to exceed **12,000**⁸



In 2023, **21%** of psychiatric residency slots went unmatched⁹

Psychiatric Pharmacists Are Part of the Behavioral Health Workforce Solution

Psychiatric pharmacists have specialized training and expertise in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacogenomics, patient communication, and managing patients with mental illness and multiple chronic conditions¹⁰. Psychiatric pharmacists...



Are highly trained with 6-8 years undergraduate and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees



Are frequently residency trained and board certified in psychiatric pharmacy, holding the BCPP credential



Work on health care teams with psychiatrists and other health professionals¹¹



Provide Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM) that focuses on medication optimization of all conditions to meet treatment goals



Increase access to care while also decreasing wait times for appointments with medical providers such as psychiatrists, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners



Congress Must Take Action to Remove Barriers In Access to Psychiatric Pharmacists

- ✓ Require CMS to recognize psychiatric pharmacists as qualified health care providers under Medicare
- ✓ Make Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM) a covered service under Medicare
- ✓ Require CMMI to study the impact of medication optimization via CMM
- ✓ Require CMS to allow pharmacists to serve as the psychiatric expert in the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) that integrates mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) care and treatment into primary care
- ✓ Include psychiatric pharmacists in HRSA training programs and National Health Service Corp student loan repayment programs
- ✓ Require CMS to provide financial support of psychiatric pharmacy residencies in order to grow the profession more rapidly

FACT: CMM Results In

- ✓ Better care
- ✓ Reduced costs
- ✓ Improved access to care
- ✓ Improved provider work life
- ✓ Improved patient satisfaction
- ✓ Improved outcomes
- ✓ Improved quality of care



The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Values Psychiatric Pharmacists¹²

The VHA employs 11,337 clinical pharmacists with 5,964 (52.6%) of those serving as Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners (CPP). These CPPs operate under a scope of practice that allows them to serve as direct care providers with prescriptive authority. The role of the CPP has grown as a core interprofessional team member that improves access and quality through the provision of comprehensive medication management (CMM) services. In FY2023...

