

NASEM Workshop: Public-Private Partnerships for Dispensing and Administration of Medical Countermeasures

ILISA BG BERNSTEIN, PharmD, JD, FAPhA Senior Vice President, Pharmacy Practice & Government Affairs American Pharmacists Association

October 17, 2023



Pharmacy PPPs

Who:

- Pharmacists
- Pharmacy technicians
- Student pharmacists
- Pharmacies

Where:

- Community pharmacies
 - Chain
 - Independent
- Long term care pharmacies/ists
- Health system pharmacies



Examples of Pharmacy PPPs

- Federal Retail Pharmacy Program
- Federal Retail Therapeutics Program
- Bridge Access Program
- State public health department programs
- Vaccines for Children
- Various private/public collaborations



What worked?

- Utilizing pharmacy team
 - Expertise
 - Trust
 - Accessibility
 - Equity
 - FRPP national coordination
- Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act)
 - Addressed scope of practice
 - License portability
 - Immunity from liability

Temporary

- Rapid response to overcome barriers
- National clinical guidelines/guidance
- Agreements vs. contracts

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF PHARMACY **IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Pharmacists and pharmacy team members contributed to America's health and recovery throughout the COVID-19 pandemic*

Pharmacists administered 300+ million COVID-19 vaccinations-more than half of all COVID-19 vaccinations administered in the U.S.

From December 2020 - January 2023

Pharmacists provided 350+ million clinical interventions to 150+ million people

42+ MILLION COVID-19

100,000+ COVID-19 MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENTS PROVIDED

1.3+ MILLION COVID-19 VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED BY STUDENT PHARMACISTS

Located to serve the most vulnerable

70% of pharmacies are located within the most vulnerable communities in the U.S.

8.1 million COVID-19 vaccinations provided to LTC residents, leading to a 2/3 drop in COVID-19 related deaths

5.5+ million hospitalized patients received care from pharmacists

Pharmacists contributed to billions in savings

\$900 BILLION

Health care cost savings by preventing 2.2 million deaths, 17 million hospitalizations, and 66 million infections through vaccinations performed between December 2020 and March 2022

\$2.6 BILLION

Savings for Medicare beneficiaries by reducing hospitalizations through vaccinations performed between January and May 2021

*For specific data and dates, see Grabenstein JD. Essential services: Quantifying the contributions of America's pharmacists in COVID-19 clinical interventions. JAPhA. 2022;62(Nov-Dec):1929-1945.E1. doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2022.08.010





What didn't work?

- Unfair pharmacy and pharmacist payment
 - No pathway to reimburse for services
 - Inadequate dispensing fee
- Poor linkage with state and local response teams
- Unfamiliar and competing distribution channels
- Erratic and unclear communications from public sector
- One-size fits all approach



Recommendations

- Don't reinvent the wheel use existing distribution channels
- Pre-establish contracts, protocols, authorities, and training/education
- Maintain and pre-establish reporting/database/ordering systems
- Establish sustainable and fair payment pathways for pharmacists
 - Pass Equitable Community Access to Pharmacists Services Act (ECAPS)
 - Public vs private plans
 - Uninsured
- Develop smoother transition to commercialization processes for distribution and payment
- Develop a response playbook for different situations
 - o Routine tabletop exercises and outreach with pharmacy community



Thank you!!

ILISA BG BERNSTEIN, PharmD, JD, FAPhA American Pharmacists Association ibernstein@aphanet.org