Congressional Legislation Introduced to Expand Medicare Patient Access to Pharmacist Services

Congressman Butterfield (D-NC) and Congressman McKinley (R-WV) have introduced the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act to help patients in underserved areas get access to pharmacist health care services. According to the sponsor’s press release the bill *“proposes to allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive basic care such as immunizations, diabetes management, blood pressure screenings and routine checks from pharmacists. There is currently no avenue for Medicare to directly reimburse pharmacists for providing this care.”*

The bill aimed at Part B services may include the following:

* Medication management
* Management of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, and related medications
* Cholesterol testing
* Point of care testing (e.g., COVID-19, influenza, strep)
* Immunization screening and administration not currently covered by Medicare Part B and D
* Tobacco cessation services
* Transition of care services

This bill does not expand scope of practice for a pharmacist but helps align Medicare rules with authorities that have been granted to pharmacists by state laws.

NPSC supports this pro-pharmacy legislation and encourages its participating pharmacies to reach out to your Congressional representatives to ask for their support as a co-sponsor.