



February 17, 2020

Chairwoman Gayle Harrell
Senate Health Policy Committee
310 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Via email: Harrell.Gayle@flsenate.gov

RE: Support SB714 Expanding Access to Care through Pharmacy Healthcare Destinations

Chairwoman Harrell and Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee:

On behalf of our members operating in the state of Florida, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) offer our support for SB714 related to expanded pharmacist authority to test and initiate treatment for influenza. We applaud the Senate Health Policy Committee for recognizing the tremendous value this legislation will provide to Floridians in receiving increased access to convenient and affordable quality care.

Sixteen (16) states currently already allow pharmacists to offer this valuable service, with additional states such as Colorado and Texas underway with similar efforts in this space.ⁱ With over 20% of outpatient antibiotic use deemed as inappropriate,ⁱⁱ test and treat services provided by pharmacists support community antibiotic stewardship efforts. Research has shown that patients often first visit their pharmacy with the flu and other minor ailments;ⁱⁱⁱ and it shows that pharmacists are able to effectively adhere to evidence-based protocols and guidelines/standards of care to initiate appropriate therapy to those who test positive or provide necessary linkage to care to those in need of further evaluation.^{iv} Expanded ability to test and treat allow pharmacists to alleviate the overwhelming time constraints other healthcare providers face, so that they can spend more time with complex patients.

Given the importance of enhanced delivery of quality healthcare, NACDS strongly urges the Florida Senate Health Policy Committee to vote "Yes" on SB714. Passage of this legislation will provide tremendous benefits to patients, employers, and the overall state healthcare system. Please do not hesitate to contact Leigh Knotts, Director of State Government Affairs at LKnotts@nacds.org or (803) 408- 9774 with any questions of concerns.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Anderson

Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE
President and Chief Executive Officer

ⁱ Pharmacist Prescribing: Test and Treat. NASPA. <https://naspa.us/resource/pharmacist-prescribing-for-strep-and-flu-test-and-treat/>

ⁱⁱ Chua K, Fischer MA, Linder, JA. Appropriateness of outpatient antibiotic prescribing among privately insured US patients: ICD-10-CM based cross sectional Study. January 2019. <https://www.bmj.com/content/364/bmj.k5092>

ⁱⁱⁱ *Studied in Medicaid patient populations* Hemberg N, Huggins D, et al. Innovative Community Pharmacy Practice Models in North Carolina. North Carolina Medical Journal. June 2017. <http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com/content/78/3/198.full>

^{iv} Poh EW, McArthur A, et al. Effects of pharmacist prescribing on patient outcomes in the hospital setting. JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports. September 2018. https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Abstract/2018/09000/Effects_of_pharmacist_prescribing_on_patient.9.aspx