



# Pharmacy e-Health Information Technology Collaborative

VIA Electronic Submission to [medadhere@hhs.gov](mailto:medadhere@hhs.gov)

May 7, 2012

Dawn Alley, Ph.D.  
Office of the Surgeon General  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave., SW, Room 710-H  
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Request for Information on Prescription Medication Adherence

Dear Dr. Alley:

On behalf of the membership of the Pharmacy e-Health Information Technology Collaborative (Collaborative), we are pleased respond to the ***Request for Information on Prescription Medication Adherence*** published in the *Federal Register* on April 5, 2012.

Pharmacists play an important role in optimizing medication adherence, therapeutic outcomes and eliminating many of the issues that cause medication non-adherence. In their role, pharmacists promote safe, efficacious, cost-effective medication use to achieve definite outcomes through the responsible provision of drug therapy that improve a patient's quality of life.

Pharmacists are key resources that help bridge the gap between physicians and patients. Pharmacists can provide needed medication information and education to patients concerning their drug therapy that physicians and other health care providers may not have, and encourage and improve prescription medication adherence in patients. Additionally, the bidirectional exchange of clinical information with pharmacists, especially through electronic health records (EHRs), will help ensure prescription medication adherence.

Pharmacists involvement in the health care delivery system include assuring the appropriate use of medications; initiation, modification, and discontinuation of medication regimens in accordance with approved Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM) agreements and institutional protocols; medication dispensing; medication safety enhancement by prevention of adverse events and medication errors; development and deployment of clinical decision support; assurance of integrity of the medication-use system, and monitoring patient outcomes from medication therapy. Pharmacists also provide a variety of patient care services, including lipid screening, diabetes counseling, comprehensive medication review,

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medication therapy management, chronic disease state management, immunization administration, and health and wellness services. All of which serve to ensure appropriate drug utilization and prescription medication adherence.

In conclusion, as you review and move forward with recommendations to improve prescription medication adherence, we strongly encourage you to include the role of pharmacists and the services they provide to patients as part of the solution.

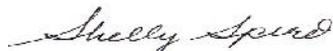
Formed in the fall of 2010, the Collaborative's focus is to assure the meaningful use (MU) of standardized electronic health records that supports safe, efficient, and effective medication use, continuity of care, and provides access to the patient-care services of pharmacists with other members of the interdisciplinary patient care team.

The Collaborative seeks to ensure that pharmacist-provided patient care services are integrated into the National HIT interoperable framework. The Collaborative's founding organizations represent pharmacists in all patient care settings and other facets of pharmacy, including pharmacy education and pharmacy education accreditation. The Collaborative's Associate Members represent e-prescribing networks, a standards development organization, transaction processing networks, pharmacy companies, system vendors and other organizations that support pharmacists' services. The Collaborative was founded by nine pharmacy professional associations representing over 250,000 members and includes six associate members from other pharmacy related organizations. For additional information, visit [www.pharmacyhit.org](http://www.pharmacyhit.org)

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On behalf of the Pharmacy e-HIT Collaborative, thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the *Request for Information on Prescription Medication Adherence*. For more information, contact Shelly Spiro, Director, Pharmacy e-HIT Collaborative at [shelly@pharmacyhit.org](mailto:shelly@pharmacyhit.org).

Respectfully submitted,



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