Virginia's Pharmacists: Improving People's Health

By 2025, the U.S. could see a shortage of as many as 31,100 primary care physicians.
Even if nurse practitioners and physician assistants are fully utilized, patient needs will not fully be met.[1]

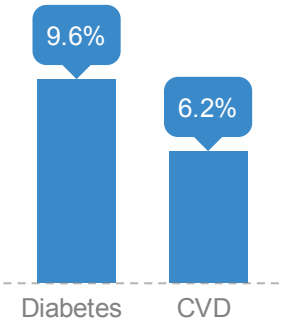
Virginia has 110 designated HPSAs and only 63% of the primary care needs in those areas are currently being met.[2] There are 6,980 highly trained pharmacists in VA who are ready to provide valuable healthcare services.[3]

Meeting Patients' Needs in Virginia

8.47 million people[4]

185 more primary care providers are needed[5]

6,980 Pharmacists ready to help[6]



Prevalence of chronic disease in Virginia [9]

Diabetes

Diabetes is a complex condition that is often managed by multiple medications. Pharmacists can optimize care and help patients understand their medications and their condition in order to improve outcomes and avoid complications.[7]

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

For patients with uncontrolled high blood pressure, waiting even two months to optimize medications increases the risk of complications, including hospitalizations. Pharmacists are highly accessible members of the care team who significantly improve blood pressure control and can provide timely follow-up and monitoring to improve outcomes.[8]

48% of Virginia residents were vaccinated for the flu[10]

Immunization rates across the U.S. have continued to increase since pharmacists began vaccinating.[11]

15% of people in Virginia smoke cigarettes[12]

Smoking causes nearly 1 of every 5 deaths in the U.S. each year.[13] Pharmacists are qualified and capable of providing smoking cessation counseling.

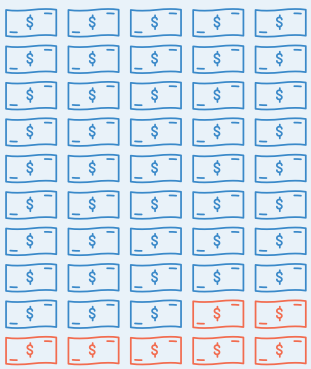
50% of people with chronic diseases do not take their medicines correctly.[14]

Medications are critical for the treatment of chronic conditions. Pharmacists can help patients use them safely and effectively to avoid medication related problems.

Virginia spends $8,439,000,000 annually on prescription medications.[15]

Investing in pharmacists' services optimizes the use of those prescription medications. Decades of research have proven the value of including pharmacists on healthcare teams. Improved health outcomes, lower costs, and increased access to care could be a reality for Virginia residents if pharmacists were fully empowered to serve as patient care providers.

Healthcare $$ Spent on Chronic Conditions

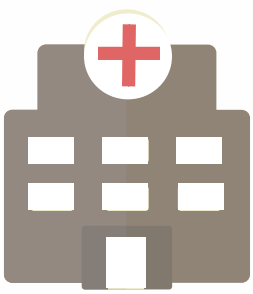


[16]

On average **$1,000** per patient per year is saved with pharmacist interventions for patients with chronic conditions.[17]

Pharmacists' counseling and adherence programs can save the healthcare system **$164** per patient in the 6 months following the start of a new prescription medication.[18]

93% of Virginia hospitals were penalized for high readmission rates.[19]



Patients are **2X** more likely to stay out of the hospital when pharmacists provide clinical services after discharge.[20]

Pharmacists in Ohio delivered a 4.4:1 ROI when providing medication therapy management services to Medicaid patients. Virginia pharmacists could do this too![21]

Virginia spent $4.27 billion on Medicaid in 2016.[22]

$4.40 saved per $1 spent on pharmacists' services

This information was developed through a collaboration between APhA and NASPA with generous support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation.

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