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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST HPHA NEWSLETTER!

The Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA) would like to introduce you to our bi-annual e-newsletter! In each newsletter, we will feature scheduled up-coming events, activities, and information that we believe will benefit or be pertinent to our HPhA members. In addition, we will also highlight a Hawaii pharmacy.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

The Hawaii Pharmacist Association (HPhA) is the only professional 501(c)(6) pharmacy association in Hawaii with approximately 350 members. HPhA is also an ACPE accredited provider in the State of Hawaii offering various accredited continuing education programs to pharmacists throughout the State of Hawaii.

We have various committees where you can provide your input and help to contribute to the future of pharmacy in Hawaii. The committees are listed below. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to join any of the committees.

Programs Committee

Government Affairs Committee

Membership Committee

Scholarship and Awards Committee

Finance Committee

Annual Meeting Committee

FEATURES OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Meet your HPhA Board of Directors for 2019-2020
New Membership Pricing as of October 1, 2019
Pharmacy Spotlight: Accredo Specialty Pharmacy
Upcoming Events
Legislative Updates

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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Student Chapter President 2019-
2020
Alan Trinh

Student Board Member, APhA-
ASP Student Chapter President
2019-2020
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NEW MEMBERSHIP PRICING

Type of Member	Previous Rates	Current Pricing
Active Pharmacist	\$210	\$180
Pharmacy Resident	\$75	\$75
Retired Pharmacist	\$190	\$160
Technician	\$65	\$50
Student	\$25	\$25
Other Healthcare Professionals	\$75	\$75

SAVE THE DATE!

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This year our Annual Meeting
will be held on
April 25-26, 2020 at the
Waikiki Beach Marriott

PHARMACY SPOTLIGHT: ACCREDO SPECIALTY PHARMACY

Accredo recently opened a new, full-service pharmacy for residents of Hawaii who require additional clinical and administrative support for their complex treatments and medications. The new Honolulu pharmacy located in Ala Moana-Kakaako, stocks a comprehensive inventory and is backed by Accredo's 15 condition-specific Therapeutic Resource Centers® (TRC), providing a level of expertise and individualized care that is unmatched in the market.

This specialty pharmacy provides high-touch care to people with chronic conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cancer and hemophilia. In addition, they offer a wide range of services, including walk-in consultations with a pharmacist, home delivery via courier and mail, and site-of-care (or ambulatory) infusion center with onsite nurses. Oncology treatments and intravenous immunoglobulin are among the therapies administered onsite.

Accredo has a unique clinical model with pharmacists, nurses and other care support professionals working in Therapeutic Resource Centers®, which are condition-specific practices that allow the care teams to become experts in a condition and the therapies that treat that condition, thus providing more comprehensive and more personalized patient care.

In addition to its care model, Accredo offers the nation's broadest access to therapies with exclusive or limited distribution. With expertise in treating some of the rarest diseases, they work to bring access to the latest in innovative medicine, including the first gene therapies used to treat hereditary blindness and spinal muscular atrophy. Accredo pharmacy customers have access to multiple resources to manage their condition. Accredo's care teams, centered around the TRCs, provides Hawaii's patients with the additional resources they need to manage their condition, including:

- Access to 500 specialty pharmacists on the phone and through video conference
- Nutrition counseling and social worker support
- Therapy management programs to protect patient health and safety
- Complete coordination of care between the medical benefit, pharmacy benefit and physicians
- Safe, prompt delivery of medications, including extensive training on administration of the medication.
- Access to more limited and exclusive distribution drugs than other specialty pharmacies.



Photo caption: The grand opening ceremony included a traditional untying of the Maile lei. From left: Quinn Taira, lead pharmacist, Hawaii Governor David Ige, Accredo President Brian Seiz, Corey Fujii, Senior Director and General Manager of Pharmacy Operations, Accredo, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, and Vic Perini, Vice President, Specialty Sales and Account Management.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The letter below was sent to Senators Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore) on behalf of HPhA. They are both members of the Senate Finance Committee. The letter was written by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). This organization represents 22,000 pharmacies nationwide and is an advocate for community pharmacists on public policy issues that are pharmacy related.

This letter illustrates support from pharmacy stakeholders and advocacy groups for finalizing pharmacy DIR (Direct and Indirect Remuneration) reform. Pharmacies participating in Part D programs experienced a 45,000 percent increase in DIR fees between 2010 and 2017. DIR fees are used to offset member costs for Medicare Part D plans and PBMs. Since DIR fees are not adjudicated at point of sale, the pharmacy is not aware of what the actual fee may be. Members in Medicare D plans will pay higher costs for their prescription medications. Because of the pharmacies uncertainty of DIR fees, they are not able to implement new services. This adversely affects both the patients and pharmacy.

Hopefully, Congress will take these issues into consideration and will adopt the reform relief during this session.

July 10, 2019

*The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
Committee on Finance
135 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510*

*The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510*

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

As pharmacists, pharmacy stakeholder groups, and patient advocacy organizations representing the interests of Medicare Part D beneficiaries, we are writing today to urge you to include pharmacy DIR fee reform, in the Senate Finance Committee's drug pricing legislation.

*As you know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently missed an opportunity to deliver real cost savings to Medicare beneficiaries when the agency finalized the *Modernizing Part D and Medicare Advantage to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenses, CMS-4180-P* rule without retaining crucial pharmacy DIR fee reforms that had been proposed. Without pharmacy DIR fee reform, another year could pass before seniors see drug prices lowered at the pharmacy counter.*

As CMS itself cited in the proposed rule, DIR fees on pharmacies participating in Part D grew by 45,000 percent between 2010 and 2017. This increase is unacceptable and unsustainable and it creates uncertainty not only for community pharmacies but also for the patients who rely on Part D prescription drugs. Until pharmacy DIR fee reform occurs, seniors will continue to pay higher cost-sharing for their prescription drugs. CMS estimated that these reforms would have saved Medicare beneficiaries between \$7.1 and \$9.2 billion in cost sharing over the next ten years.

CMS has studied this issue extensively and heard from thousands of pharmacists and patient advocates during the comment period as well as 29 members of the United States Senate and 62 members of the House of Representatives encouraging finalization of the pharmacy DIR provisions.

If CMS will not act then Congress must. For these reasons, we continue to urge the Senate Finance Committee, with your leadership, to deliver seniors real relief from rising prescription drug costs. We stand ready to work with you to determine how we can adopt this much-needed and overdue reform relief this year.