

# Rx REPORT TO THE TEXAS PHARMACY CONGRESS



TEXAS FEDERATION OF DRUG STORES

*"The Voice of Chain Pharmacy in the State of Texas"*



*Brookshire Brothers*

**BROOKSHIRE'S**



*Randalls*

*Tom Thumb*

Ingredients for life..



*Walgreens*  
AT THE CORNER OF **HAPPY & HEALTHY**

**Walmart**   
Save money. Live better.



## TEXAS FEDERATION OF DRUG STORES

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**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

### **Texas Chain Drug Store Community**

***The Texas Federation of Drug Stores represents traditional drug stores and supermarkets with pharmacies. Texas members operate over 3,000 pharmacies and employ over 10,000 pharmacists. TFDS represents approximately 65% of all retail pharmacies in Texas.***

### **The Texas Federation of Drug Stores 2019 Legislative Priorities**

#### **Medicaid Reimbursement Reforms....**

HB 3388 by Rep. Sheffield has been a high priority of the TFDS advocacy efforts. The bill amends the Medicaid program to require participating MCOs to reimbursement pharmacies at a nationally recognized rate such as NADAC, and to include a professional dispensing fee. The bill also creates transparency in MCO reimbursement methodologies and requires the Department of HHS to conduct a bi-annual dispensing study.

#### **Regulations of PBMs....**

TFDS has long supported reforms to the contractual practices of PBMs that impede the ability of pharmacies to meet the needs of patients and with the leadership of House Insurance Chairman Eddie Lucio III HB 2817 will prohibit certain marketing practices that deny appropriate reimbursement to pharmacies. HB 2817 will;

- ✓ Prohibits post-adjudication recoupment of claims, including DIR or GER-like fees,
- ✓ Prohibits a PBM from paying a pharmacy affiliated with the PBM more than a non-affiliated pharmacy, and requires a PBM to provide a pharmacy a fee schedule with their contract,
- ✓ Allows a Pharmacy Service Organization (PSO) to obtain a copy of a PBM contract for those pharmacies they represent, and
- ✓ Prohibits a PBM contract from;
  - ★ Not allowing a pharmacy from delivering a prescription to a patient and charging a fee,
  - ★ Requiring any additional pharmacy accreditations beyond that required by the TSBP.



## **Mandatory E-Prescribing...**

TFDS supported an effort lead by NACDS in this legislature to advance HB 2174 by Rep. Zerwas, which included priorities of the Texas Attorney General and a State Task Force on Opioid Abuse to require a prescription for a controlled substance is required to be issued electronically after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 20121, unless the prescription is issued;

- ✓ By a veterinarian,
- ✓ Electronical prescribing is not available, or
- ✓ By a practitioner who has received a waiver from the requirement.

## **Patient Access to Enhanced Pharmacy Services...**

TFDS supported HB 4285 advanced by TPA that would have allowed a pharmacist working under a protocol to provide patients with travel medications, smoking cessation drugs and prenatal vitamins as well as certain medications indicated by a point-of-sale CLIA waived test. The Texas Medical Association opposed the bill and offered a compromise that will allow pharmacists to furnish antiviral medications following a positive test for influenza.

## ***Chain Pharmacy News***

### **Walgreens to Offer Pharmacists Mental Health First Aid Training**

Walgreens is collaborating with the National Council for Behavioral Health and the American Pharmacists Association to provide mental health first aid training for certain Walgreens pharmacists and team members. "With the growing need for services and resources to help those living with mental health conditions, as well as substance use and addiction, we can play an important role by giving our pharmacists and certain team members the training to help those who may be in crisis," said Alex Gourlay, Co-COO, Walgreens Boots Alliance.

### **This Flu Season is the Longest in a Decade**

The 2018-19 flu season is the longest in a decade due to a second viral wave, according to CDC. The season, which many expected to be short and mild in the U.S., has been officially ongoing for 21 weeks; however, CDC researchers note it appears the flu season is waning and should be over soon.

### **Measles Cases in the U.S. at Highest Level Since 2000**

CDC reported 695 cases of measles across 22 states as of April 24, representing the largest number of cases reported in the U.S. since the disease was declared eliminated in 2000. The agency noted the recent outbreaks began due to importation, and that large outbreaks in Washington state and New York are among the largest and longest lasting since 2000. Meanwhile, more than 20 million children a year across the world failed to get vaccinated against measles, causing a global resurgence of the disease, according to a new UNICEF report.



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## ***IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES***

- |                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2019   | - | Texas Pharmacy Congress – Austin           |
| May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2019  | - | Texas Legislature – Sine Die               |
| July 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | - | Vendor Drug Program – Stakeholders Meeting |
| July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 | - | TFDS Board Meeting - Austin                |