



TPA *Update* comes to you from the Texas Pharmacy Association to inform you about issues affecting pharmacy and TPA's outreach to stakeholders. If you'd like updates via e-mail from TPA, visit our website at [www.texaspharmacy.org](http://www.texaspharmacy.org) and sign up! Also, check our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TexasPharmacyAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/TexasPharmacyAssociation) and follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/TXpharmAssn](http://twitter.com/TXpharmAssn).

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### ★ Texas State Board of Pharmacy Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday February 7, the Texas State Board of Pharmacy moved to allow technicians in Texas to take either the PTCB or ExCPT exam prior to registering as a technician. The second test will become available in August unless TSBP staff inform the Board at the next meeting that they are ready to implement the test sooner.

Additionally the Board approved the following new rules:

- C.1.1 Amendments to §291.93 Concerning Labeling Requirements
- C.1.2 Amendments to §291.106 Concerning Licensing Requirements for Class E-S Pharmacies
- C.1.3 Amendments to §297.3 Concerning Pharmacy Technician Registration Requirements

TSBP will meet again on May 2. For details and dates concerning TSBP, please visit here: [www.pharmacy.texas.gov](http://www.pharmacy.texas.gov)

### ★ 85th Texas Legislative Session Update

It's been four weeks since the 85th Texas Legislature convened and many important decisions already have been made. There now are more than 1,700 bills have been filed in the House and over 750 in the Senate. That's about 2,500 pieces of legislation already! Among them are two more recently filed bills impacting pharmacy as follows:

HB 1415 - Rep. Stephanie Klick (R) District 91

Relating to the processing and payment of claims for reimbursement by certain providers under the Medicaid program.

HB 1482 - Rep. Matt Shaheen (R) District 66

Relating to step therapy protocols required by a health benefit plan in connection with prescription drug coverage.

You can view all of the bills on our radar at [www.texaspharmacy.org](http://www.texaspharmacy.org). Please know that it will be important for TPA and you, our members, to work together to advance the pharmacy profession!

### ★ Texas Pharmacy Association Launches Medication Adherence Project

The Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA) has been awarded a grant from the Community Pharmacy Foundation (CPF) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop and implement new community-based healthcare provider digital linkages with pharmacists that include support resources and a strong business infrastructure. Utilizing a cloud-based system, physicians will be able to refer patients with uncontrolled hypertension to a community-based pharmacist network who will deliver services designed to improve outcomes and decrease overall medical costs. Patient referrals begin in February 2017 and will include up to 180 total patients from three communities of Wichita Falls, Tyler and Jasper, Texas. It is expected that referrals will conclude by June 2017 and results will be available by October 2017. This first phase integrates a network of 13 community pharmacists from 8 different pharmacy employers into clinics, hospitals and provider offices. Long term, the project will establish a virtual network in various cities throughout the state.

### ★ 2017 TPA Leadership Symposium

Early Bird Registration ends TODAY! Activities include:

- CE Sessions - Legislative Priorities and Employee Engagement
- House of Delegates
- TPA Candidate Forum
- Installation of TPA President

Register online at [www.texaspharmacy.org](http://www.texaspharmacy.org)

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