

NJSHP

NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF
HEALTH-SYSTEM
PHARMACISTS

October Newsletter



Photo by Gabby Orcutt on Unsplash

The Presidents Perch

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Welcome to the Fall edition of the NJSHP Newsletter! "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers". .

Council of Public Policy

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What you need to know about 340B

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Mission Statement

The mission of The New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists is to advance health-system pharmacy practice and healthcare through education, professional development, and advocacy.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE NEW JERSEY
SOCIETY OF
HEALTH-SYSTEMS
PHARMACISTS

NJSHP

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**NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF HEALTH-
SYSTEMS PHARMACISTS (NJSHP)
PRESENTS**

2021-2022 CALL FOR SPEAKERS

**Interested in becoming more involved with our
state society? NJSHP needs YOU!**

Requested topic areas include:

**COVID-19 treatments / Management of acute
ischemic stroke / Antibiotics / Pharmacy law
updates / Diabetes care / Informatics in population
health / Patient safety / Heart failure /
Immunization updates / Oncology and sickle cell /
Opioid Stewardship and alternatives for pain
management / Anticoagulation**

**IF INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE, PLEASE CONTACT MARY
BRIDGEMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL
AFFAIRS (MARY.BRIDGEMAN@PHARMACY.RUTGERS.EDU)**

President's Perch | Welcome to Fall

By: Juliana Quad, PharmD, RPh



Welcome to the Fall edition of the NJSHP Newsletter! "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers". While L.M. Montgomery originally penned those words for Anne of Green Gables, I have to admit that October is a fantastic month to work in a pharmacy because we can celebrate Pharmacy Week! On behalf of the NJSHP Executive Team, I extend warm wishes for a fun-filled Pharmacy Week 2021 as you celebrate the contributions of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in your workplace and community.

As the seasons change, NJSHP is continuing to evolve as well. Flexibility is a key component to success- in life, in business and in healthcare. To be flexible means to assess the current situation and to adapt as needed. Pharmacy is ready for a change- we have adapted to a "new normal" over the past 19 months. We have proven ourselves capable to tackle a new disease, learn about effective treatments, provide vaccines to so many NJ residents, and to flex our skills in ways we couldn't have dreamed.

Ask yourself- Am I flexible? Can I see beyond my current job responsibilities? Can I push myself to work at the 'top of my license'? How often do I go 'above and beyond'? Can I work 'outside my comfort zone'? Answer these questions and challenge yourself or a colleague to flex your skills. Collaborate with other healthcare leaders and NJSHP to ensure that pharmacy evolves in a direction where you are a proud participant.

NJSHP has been busy adapting and flexing too. In this edition, you will see that we have met with U.S. Senator Menendez and U.S. Rep. Malinowski to advocate for our profession. We were able to co-sponsor a successful Tri-State Meeting on October 1, and are busy planning to provide educational topics for you at monthly meetings.

Please continue to share your ideas as we continue to advocate for the profession.



**New Jersey Society of
Health-System Pharmacists**

**2022 Annual Meeting & Exhibition
April 7-8, 2022**

**Ocean Place Resort & Spa
One Ocean Boulevard
Long Branch, New Jersey 07740
800.411.7321 www.oceanplace.com**

Public Policy Council Section

Jessica Hill, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, FASHP
Corporate Assistant Director, Clinical Pharmacy Services
RWJBarnabas Health

The Council on Public Policy has had an active start to fall with multiple meetings and projects underway. Council members attended recent New Jersey Board of Pharmacy Meetings and ASHP State Legislative and Regulatory Conference Calls. Council members attended meetings with staff members from the offices of Senator Menendez and Representative Malinowski as part of ASHP's Virtual Legislative Week.

The Council on Public Policy has been working with affiliates with other states to evaluate ways to expand the scope of practice for pharmacists in New Jersey. In New Jersey Legislation is currently in committee review to allow pharmacists to dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptives. The Council will keep the membership updated as the bill advances through the state legislature. A summary of the legislation can be found at:

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A9999/5810_11.HTM

The White Bagging position statement resource will be made available to members in the coming weeks. This resource can serve as a tool for Health System Pharmacy leaders to assertively advocate limiting White Bagging as a means to prevent patient harm and minimize other negative downstream effects caused by insurer driven White-Bagging requirements.

As many members will be aware, HHS modified the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act which expands the role of pharmacists in administering COVID-19 treatments. ASHP is advocating for the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act of 2021 (H.R.2759/ S.1362). Congress is focusing on the Infrastructure bill at this time.

Special Congratulations to Samuel Grossman PharmD, PhD, CDCES, FADCES on receiving the Diabetes Care and Education Specialist of the Year Award

Every year the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialist awards a practitioner who has made a special contribution to the specialty through dedication, innovation and sensitivity in care. Thank you Samuel for your contribution to the healthcare community.

What you need to know about 340B...

Jonathan Chung and Justin Wu
PharmD Candidates of 2022
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

The 340B drug pricing program is a federal program that enables covered entities to distribute federal resources as far as possible, with a goal of providing comprehensive services to eligible patients at reduced costs. In 1990, the Medicaid drug rebate program (MDRP) was created to help lower the cost of medications that are reimbursed by state Medicaid agencies. If a drug manufacturer wanted their drug to be covered by Medicaid and Medicare Part B (which only covers a specific selection of outpatient prescription drugs under limited conditions), then they would need to participate in a rebate agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this agreement, the manufacturer would be required to pay rebates to state Medicaid programs for covered outpatient drugs.^{1,2}

The goal of the 340B program is to provide comprehensive services to as many underprivileged patients at significantly reduced costs. These services include free care for uninsured patients, free vaccines, service in mental health clinics, medication management, and community health programs.³ CEs can then purchase outpatient drugs (limited by what is covered under Medicaid and Medicare Part B) from manufacturers at discounted prices. Because these medications are purchased at a discount but billed for the full price, CEs can generate surplus revenue, called 340B funds, to allow for providers to reduce the financial burden of medications or other medical care for uninsured, underinsured, and low-income patients.⁴ According to the HRSA, 340B partners can achieve average savings of 25-50% of pharmaceutical purchases.³ Each facility can choose how to spend their 340B funds, but most use it to further provide low or no-cost medication and services to their low-income patients.⁴ The 340B is also unique in that it is not funded by taxpayers, and is intended to be self-sustaining.⁴

Recently, there have been controversies surrounding drug manufacturers refusing to offer discounted prices under the 340B program. Starting mid-2020, one pharmaceutical company challenged the 340B program by halting production of a certain dose of their drug available at the 340B discounted price.⁵ This was not due to any shortages or issues with supply, but to avoid selling their flagship product at discounted prices. Drug manufacturers claim that pharmacies have well-documented abuses in the 340B program, resulting in pharmacies profiting at the expense of patients. The lack of response from HRSA and HHS at the time encouraged other drug manufacturing companies to follow suit.⁶ HRSA and HHS have chosen to fine the 6 drug manufacturers over refusal to give drugs at discounted prices under the 340B program to contract pharmacies; hospital groups and large advocacy organizations (including the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, ASHP, and Association of American Medical Colleges, AAMC) filed a federal lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services over the perceived failure in enforcing the 340B program requirements.⁵⁻⁷ These drug makers have filed their own lawsuits as a response. This controversy has made it increasingly more difficult for contract pharmacies and other entities to provide comprehensive care to low-income and other eligible patients.

If you would like to find out more, you can visit the HRSA website at: <https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/>

If you are already a 340B participant, you can visit the HRSA website's educational resources. The website provides multiple online educational programs that are certified by the HRSA to aid with program compliance. <https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/educational-resources/>

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Happy Pharmacy Week!

Oct 17th – 23rd

