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Montana Pharmacy Success! New Medicaid Rules Recognize Clinical Pharmacists Practitioners starting July 1

The Montana Pharmacy Association along with the Montana Pharmacist Patient Care Alliance is pleased to announce that beginning July 1, Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners (CPPs) will receive reimbursement for providing drug therapy management services. This new program is the result of pharmacy supporters' work on Senate Bill 31 in the 2017 session that started the conversation with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). Work to develop this concept by administrative rule has resulted in these draft rules shown here: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/rules/37-792pro-arm.pdf>

Carla Cobb, Pharm.D., BCPP, a clinical pharmacist practitioner at RiverStone Health in Billings and Chair of the Montana Pharmacist Patient Care Alliance reported that "At the State Capitol we received universal support for covering clinical pharmacy services once legislators understood how pharmacists contribute to improving health care in our state. This led to our positive collaboration with DPHHS in the last few months and the development of this cutting edge program."

Description of Montana Program:

Effective July 1, 2017, DPHHS will establish the Collaborative Practice Drug Therapy Management Program in the Montana Medicaid plan. This new program reimburses Montana Clinical Pharmacy Practitioners for providing face-to-face, direct patient care to Medicaid members who have chronic diseases and complex medication regimens.

What the new Montana program is intended to do:

- The new rules recognize Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners as part of the team approach to health care that can help identify and resolve drug therapy problems and ensure that medications for Medicaid members are appropriate, effective and safe.
- The program is intended to improve access to care by increasing the number of patient-care providers within a medical practice and allowing physicians to devote more time to diagnostic assessment and acute care.

- **End** -