



December 2019

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your continued support of the New Hampshire Pharmacists Association. Your commitment to the Association is crucial. It allows us to provide valued and important member services. NHPA provides its members live CE programs throughout the year.

NHPA represents your pharmacy interests during pharmacy related rule making processes as well as advocating for pharmacists interests at legislative hearings. Your membership dollars allow us to retain a lobbyist who is present during legislative sessions. We also sponsor the annual awards banquet every December.

In the current healthcare climate it is extremely important to have a strong professional association such as NHPA. Business interests of pharmacy be they community, hospital, manufacturing or PBMs are well represented and funded both at the Federal level as well as here in New Hampshire.

This past year the Association represented you by testifying at committee meetings on a variety of bills regarding vaccines, licensed advanced pharmacy technicians (LAPT), PBM legislation as well as new pharmacy rules regarding continuous quality improvement, Investigation and Inspection rules, and contraceptive rules.

NHPA also took part in meetings that will lead to changes in the scope of practice rules early next year. 2020 will be another busy year. There are no fewer than 38 bills and LSRs that will influence pharmacy practice. Also, the last meeting of the group writing the rules for the LAPT is scheduled for early December and I would anticipate public hearings on these rules will be early next year.

The Association has also been in talks with stakeholders including the State of NH Medicaid office and DHHS regarding provider status for pharmacists. This is essential in moving the profession forward. Provider status is a necessary component for the success of the contraceptive legislation, collaborative practices and smoking cessation legislation being presented this year.

So how can you help? You CAN make a difference. We welcome your participation on one of our many committees. The legislative committee welcomes you to participate. Being a committee member can be professionally rewarding. You can find information and committee descriptions on our Website.

We ask you to take the time to reach out and meet your local representative and senator. Talk to them. Let them know what you do and what your concerns are. These are the folks being lobbied in Concord and try their best to understand the issues they are voting on. Let them know your side of a bill. You may be surprised that they reach out to you for information once you have established a relationship.

This is an exciting time for technicians with the new Licensed Advanced classification. We will provide guidance and information to membership as this process evolves.

There is no substitute for meeting and talking with peers about many issues. CE programs don't just provide CE credits but allow for building those relationships and sharing concerns. Take advantage of that.

Advancement of the profession of pharmacy and the ability to better and safely serve the citizens of our state are a shared responsibility of both NHPA and its membership.

If you are concerned about voicing your opinion in a public setting regarding a pharmacy issue which personally affects your practice, allow the Association be your voice.

Please reach out to your partners, colleagues and technicians regarding joining the Association.

The Pharmacy Profession has always been a noble and respected profession. With your participation and support NHPA will continue its advocacy for your profession.

I look forward to serving as your President and ask for your help.

Thank you

Robert J. Stout, President
New Hampshire Pharmacists Association