

Alaska's Pharmacists: Improving People's Health



By 2032, the U.S. could see a shortage of as many as 55,200 primary care physicians. Even if nurse practitioners and physician assistants are fully utilized, patient needs will not fully be met.¹

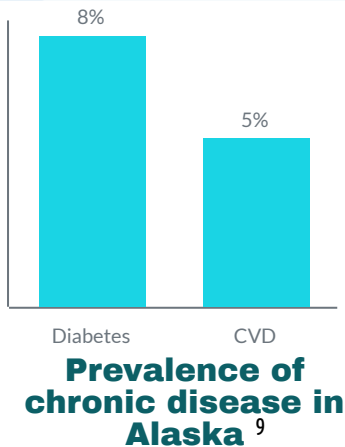
Alaska has 273 designated HPSAs and only 26% of the primary care needs in those areas are currently being met.² There are 460 highly trained pharmacists in AK who are ready to provide valuable healthcare services.³

Meeting Patients' Needs in Alaska

730
Thousand
people⁴

24
more primary
care providers
are needed⁵

460
Pharmacists
ready to help⁶




Diabetes

Diabetes is a complex condition that is often managed by multiple medications. Pharmacists can optimize care and help patients understand their medications and their condition in order to improve outcomes and avoid complications.⁷

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

For patients with uncontrolled high blood pressure, waiting even two months to optimize medications increases the risk of complications, including hospitalizations. Pharmacists are highly accessible members of the care team who significantly improve blood pressure control and can provide timely follow-up and monitoring to improve outcomes.⁸


44%
of Alaska residents
were vaccinated
for the flu¹⁰

Immunization rates across the U.S. have continued to increase since pharmacists began vaccinating.¹¹

21%

of people in
Alaska smoke
cigarettes¹²

**50% of people with
chronic diseases do
not take their
medicines correctly.**¹⁴



Smoking causes nearly 1 of every 5 deaths in the U.S. each year.¹³ Pharmacists are qualified and capable of providing smoking cessation counseling.

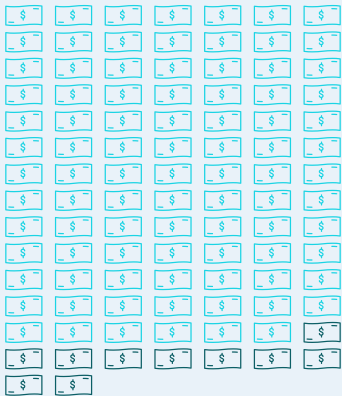
Medications are critical for the treatment of chronic conditions. Pharmacists can help patients use them safely and effectively to avoid medication related problems.



Alaska spends **\$757,206,371** annually on prescription medications.¹⁵

Investing in pharmacists' services optimizes the use of those prescription medications. Decades of research have proven the value of including pharmacists on healthcare teams. Improved health outcomes, lower costs, and increased access to care could be a reality for Alaska residents if pharmacists were fully empowered to serve as patient care providers.

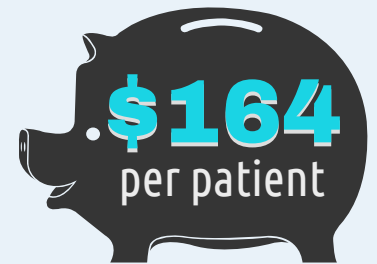
90% of the nation's \$3.5 trillion in annual health care expenditures are for people with chronic and mental health conditions.¹⁶



On average
\$1,000
per patient per
year is saved

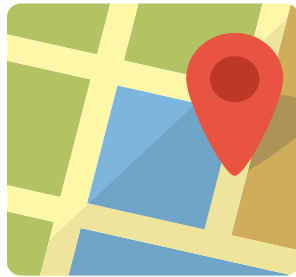
with pharmacist
interventions for patients
with chronic conditions.¹⁷

Pharmacists' counseling and
adherence programs can
save the healthcare system



in the 6 months following
the start of a new
prescription medication.¹⁸

Pharmacists are
accessible. 93% of
Americans live
within 5 miles of a
community
pharmacy.¹⁹



Pharmacist
prescribing for minor
ailments can relieve
pressure on
Emergency Rooms.²⁰



Oregon pharmacists wrote
10% of all birth control
prescriptions since a
landmark law was
passed. Alaska
pharmacists could do this
too!

Alaska spent
\$2 billion on
Medicaid in
2018.²²

Up to
30%
of Emergency
Room visits are
non-urgent.

\$4.40
saved per \$1 spent
on pharmacists'
services²¹

This information was developed through a collaboration between APhA and NASPA with generous support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation.



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