



Distinguished Members of the Healthcare Advisory Committee
U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health & Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244
Delivered by email to: HAC@cms.hhs.gov

May 13, 2026

Dear HAC Committee Members,

On behalf of the **Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition (SCPC)**, the national trade association representing long-term care (LTC) pharmacies, I write to congratulate you on your appointment and to offer our partnership as you begin this critical work. SCPC and its members stand ready to serve as a resource to the Committee as you seek to strengthen our nation's healthcare system.

LTC pharmacies are a distinct and specialized sector of American pharmacy. Our members provide **comprehensive medication services** to patients in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, mental health institutions, substance abuse treatment centers, PACE centers, and other long-term care settings. LTC pharmacies predominantly serve complex senior populations and our pharmacies depend mostly on Medicare Part D for reimbursement, but their services intersect directly with Medicare Part A, Part C, Medicaid, TRICARE, and other payers. For decades, LTC pharmacists have delivered specialized dispensing, individualized packaging, around-the-clock availability, and rigorous clinical medication reviews that have kept vulnerable patients safe and reduced unnecessary costs across federal programs.

Medication Management: An Underrecognized Crisis

As your committee charts its priorities, we urge you to place medication management near the top of the agenda. Our aging population is growing rapidly, and complex, multi-medication patients represent one of the highest-risk — and highest-cost — segments of the healthcare system. Medication errors and non-adherence are among the most prevalent and preventable drivers of poor outcomes. The data are sobering:

- **\$528 billion** in avoidable medical spending annually due to non-optimized medication therapy¹
- **125,000 avoidable deaths** per year attributable to medication non-adherence²

- **50% of patients with chronic disease** do not take medications as prescribed, driving preventable disease progression³
- **20–33% of preventable emergency department visits** are medication-related, particularly among Medicare beneficiaries⁴

The LTC Pharmacy Solution

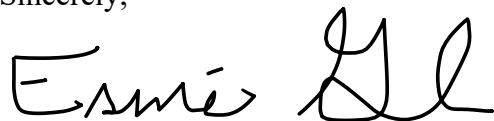
LTC pharmacies have developed evidence-based systems specifically designed to address these challenges. Our pharmacists conduct structured medication regimen reviews, identify dangerous drug interactions, and work directly with prescribers to optimize therapy for medically complex patients and importantly, deprescribe. Our specialized unit-dose packaging reduces administration errors. Our on-call pharmacists provide 24/7 support to care facilities. These are not incidental features; they are the core of what distinguishes LTC pharmacy. These high standards that have been set over the course of decades are why millions of patients in long-term care settings receive safer, more effective medication management every day than the average patient.

Despite this track record, LTC pharmacy is frequently overlooked in healthcare policy discussions. SCPC believes that closing this gap represents a meaningful opportunity to reduce costs, prevent harm, and improve quality of care at scale.

We would welcome the opportunity to brief the Committee on our members' outcomes data, share examples of best practices in medication management, and identify where targeted policy changes could generate the greatest impact. LTC pharmacy has a strong story to tell and a genuine role to play in the solutions this Committee is charged with finding.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to improving the health of Americans. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Esmé Grewal
President & CEO
Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition (SCPC)
egrewal@seniorcarepharmacies.org
Cell: (202) 744-8925

¹ Watanabe JH, McInnis T, Hirsch JD. Cost of Prescription Drug–Related Morbidity and Mortality. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2018;52(9):829–837. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1060028018765159>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Medication Adherence: Working Together to Improve Health Outcomes. https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/pubs/docs/medication_adherence.pdf

³ World Health Organization. Adherence to Long-Term Therapies: Evidence for Action. Geneva: WHO, 2003. Approximately 50% of patients with chronic diseases in developed countries do not adhere to prescribed medication regimens.

⁴ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Center. Part D Enhanced Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Model Fact Sheet. <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/enhancedmtm>