

# LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL TO EFFECTIVE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID-FUNDED HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS)

Millions of Americans need both long-term services and support (LTSS) and care for chronic health and long-term care (LTC) needs. Many of these seniors and younger adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities reside in LTC facilities, but even more live at home or in their community—often a better option for individuals and their families.

The [Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition](#) believes the choice to remain at home or reside in a LTC facility is deeply personal, and it is both sensible and fair that every person receives high-quality care and services regardless of the choice they make. As key care and service providers for this population, LTC pharmacies know that honoring individual choice without undermining equal access to care should be the priority in all patient decisions—no matter their location.

**THE PROBLEM:** For too long, Medicaid policies have favored facility-based care over care provided in other settings. While federal law requires that residents in LTC facilities have access to LTC pharmacy services, there is no such requirement for those living at home or in their community—and the result is higher medication use, less effective care management, and poorer health outcomes. LTC pharmacy services reduce the number of prescription medications an individual takes; minimize the risk of adverse drug interactions and medication-related health care complications; and enhance coordination of care—resulting in a better quality of life for people who need LTSS and keeping people where they prefer to live.

## DID YOU KNOW?

LTC pharmacies provide an entirely different level of care and additional clinical services than most retail pharmacies.

Inequitable access to the enhanced care and clinical services provided by LTC pharmacies means people living in facility settings are receiving better care than those who are living at home. It is time to stop denying high-quality care to Medicaid beneficiaries living at home or in the community.

**THE SOLUTION:** Federal law must give Medicaid beneficiaries access to all the care and services they need, regardless of where they choose to live, including equal access to LTC pharmacy services. Currently, the Biden Administration and Members of Congress are considering solutions that will expand access to Medicaid-funded Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), allowing people to thrive whether they live at home, in the community, or in a facility.

The good news is expanding access to LTC pharmacies is not without precedent. Traditionally, LTC pharmacies only served residents in federally defined LTC facilities, but now they also serve residents in assisted living communities, senior living communities, and residential communities.

## Fortunately, the solution to this is simple—Congress must pass legislation to:

- 1.) Define LTC pharmacies as part of the conforming amendments to the Medicaid provisions of the Social Security Act, as a complement to the Long-Term Care Pharmacies Definition Act of 2021 ([S.1574](#)), which clarifies LTC pharmacies as especially qualified to provide *enhanced pharmacy and clinical services* to patients with medically complex chronic conditions.
- 2.) Include LTC pharmacy services as an enumerated service available to eligible seniors and younger adults with disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid-funded HCBS.

LTC pharmacies are uniquely capable of providing care to people covered under the HCBS program because they provide the same services to patients with markedly similar health conditions in other LTC settings. Expanding access to LTC pharmacy services ensures that Medicaid beneficiaries who need LTC and LTSS get all the services they need in whatever place they call home.