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For more information, contact Scott Sisco  
[ssisco@kphanet.org](mailto:ssisco@kphanet.org)  
502-227-2303

## KPhA Echoes Report Findings

**FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 10, 2012** - The Kentucky Pharmacists Association joins the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) in echoing the findings in the Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice released Jan. 9, 2012 from the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, U.S. Public Health Service.

In a letter released from Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA, U.S. Surgeon General, she states, "This report provides the evidence health leaders and policy makers need to support evidence-based models of cost effective patient care that utilizes the expertise and contributions of our nation's pharmacists as an essential part of the healthcare team."

"The profession of pharmacy is grateful to the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, U.S. Public Health Service and their Commissioned Corps colleagues for the compilation of this critical report," said Robert McFalls, Executive Director of KPhA. "We are thankful to the Surgeon General for her letter recognizing the importance of the recommendations contained. This will be an invaluable tool for KPhA and NASPA to use to work with health leaders and policy makers to implement the recommendations contained herein."

Key recommendations of the report:

- 1) Health leaders and policy makers should further explore ways to optimize the role of pharmacists to deliver a variety of patient-centered care and disease prevention, in collaboration with physicians or as part of the healthcare team.
- 2) Utilization of pharmacists as an essential part of the healthcare team to prevent and manage disease in collaboration with other clinicians can improve quality, contain costs, and increase access to care.
- 3) Recognition of pharmacists as health care provider, clinicians and an essential part of the health care team is appropriate given the level of care they provided in many health care settings.
- 4) Compensation models, reflective of the range of care provided by pharmacists, are needed to sustain these patient oriented, quality improvement services.

The Report utilizes objective data to advance the discussion of how models of innovative care involving pharmacists can ultimately help alleviate demands on the health care system (access, safety, quality, cost, provider shortages, etc.) and improve outcomes. The Report describes existing, accepted, and successful models of health care delivery and patient care using pharmacists as health care providers and essential members of the health care team.

This Report provides a thorough evidence-based discussion of the comprehensive patient care services that pharmacists currently provide. For nearly 50 years, pharmacists have been afforded the opportunity to practice collaboratively with physicians and other health care providers in expanded scopes delivering comprehensive disease management, health promotion, disease prevention, medication therapy management and other cognitive clinical services. The Report presents public and private sector models, and calls for health leadership and policy makers to support and implement existing, evidence-based and cost-effective pharmacist-delivered patient care models as the demands within our health care system escalate.

KPhA works very closely with pharmacist providers to assure they are recognized as an essential healthcare provider to each and every patient and this report helps promote this in every state.

The full report and the support letter signed by Dr. Benjamin are accessible at: <http://www.kphanet.org/Communications.aspx>

Since 1879, the Kentucky Pharmacists Association has served Kentucky pharmacists by promoting the profession of pharmacy, enhancing the practice standards of the profession, and demonstrating the value of pharmacist services within the health care system.

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