

Pharmacist and the Changing Healthcare System

The traditional pharmacist role as dispensing medications across the counter/Over the Counter (OTC) has evolved over the years. The pharmacists have, over time, traditionally leveraged their clinical knowledge to review prescribed drug regimens which help prevent inappropriate dosing and have been instrumental in minimizing drug interactions.



The trend may look even more positive, given their role in the new healthcare reforms initiated in November 2015 - **providing direct care to patients** as members of integrated healthcare provider.

Approximately **117 million people** in US have at least one **chronic disease**

Nearly **81%** of adults **prefer self-treatment** for minor ailments with OTC products, & pharmacists help select the right ones.



Pharmacists have the expertise to address key challenges facing the health care system, especially patients with **multiple chronic conditions**

Above services provided through collaborative practice agreements (CPAs).

48 states

grant pharmacists the ability to practice collaboratively

45 states

under CPA allow pharmacists to modify drugs

38 states

allow pharmacists to initiate new therapy

Thus these variations and limitations can be very stifling for Pharmacists, until further changes in healthcare reforms are initiated and updated.

With the recent change in Medicare Part B, recognizing pharmacists as "healthcare providers", pharmacists can now directly bill Medicare for the services provided.