



TO: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
CC: Members, House Government Operations Committee Committee
FROM: Aliyah N. Horton, CAE, Executive Director, 240-688-7808
DATE: March 5, 2020
RE: SUPPORT- HB1279 – Refills of Prescriptions with Dispensing Requirements

- Maryland Pharmacists Association supports HB 1279. It provides an important clarification that would allow pharmacists to complete refills for patients in need under statute.
- As you may be aware, pharmacists are currently allowed to provide refills. The refill may not exceed a 14-day supply or unit of the drug. However, some prescriptions are not sold in quantities that small, such as insulin and asthma inhalers.
- We continue to support legislation that supports patient's access to medications, particularly for chronic conditions
- There are safeguards and physician notification requirements already in law.
- I have experienced this personally. My son needed a refill for his inhaler, for which he had been prescribed for years to manage his chronic asthma. We had a situation where he needed his inhaler for a travel summer camp and required it to be packaged in the box. Our packaging had been damaged and was not accepted. We did not have a refill available. The pharmacy could not dispense the medication because the inhaler is used for more than 14 days. The pediatrician could not see us in time for the trip. So, I had to sneak his inhaler in. That is not the way it should be done, particularly for a chronic medication that has been used regularly and has not provided any concerns.
- I repeat safeguards and physician notifications are in place.
- MPhA urges a favorable report of HB 1279.