



**TO:** The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Meghan Swarhout, PharmD  
Member, Maryland Pharmacy Coalition

**DATE:** March 6, 2023

**RE:** FAVORABLE - HB1156 PHARMACIST – THERAPY MANAGEMENT CONTRACT - FORM

The Maryland Pharmacy Coalition **supports HB1156 Pharmacist – Therapy Management Contract - Form**. This bill updates the requirements for drug therapy management contracts to be written, electronic, or oral. If oral, the contract agreement must be documented in writing within 30 days.

The Drug Therapy Management statute was last updated in 2015. Since this time, telemedicine has become much more prevalent to improve patient access to healthcare services, including medication management services provided by pharmacists. Drug Therapy Management services are provided across the state of Maryland and help patients achieve the best outcomes from their medications by promoting interdisciplinary care. Pharmacists work collaboratively with physicians, nurse practitioners, and podiatrists to initiate, modify, continue, and discontinue medications. This may include making dose adjustments and helping to manage side effects for diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

Patient contracts are intended to inform patients about the partnership of their pharmacist and physician, nurse practitioner, or podiatrist. Patient contracts are not required in institutional facilities (e.g., hospitals) and health maintenance organizations (e.g., Kaiser Permanente).

Currently, patient contracts must be in writing. When providing services via telemedicine, this creates undue burden to mail, collect, track, and store physical documents. Additionally, requiring patient contracts in writing can delay patient access to care. Pharmacists are spending increased time on this logistical and administrative requirement. Most importantly, the time spent on paperwork takes away from direct patient care responsibilities, like vaccinating and educating patients.

Updating the definition of a Drug Therapy Management Contract to a written, electronic, or verbal agreement ensures the original intent of patient informed consent remains intact while creating greater flexibility that expands patient access to medication management services via telemedicine.

For these reasons and more, the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition urges a **favorable** report on **HB1156**.

**Maryland Pharmacy Coalition**

Maryland Chapter – American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

Maryland Pharmaceutical Society

Maryland Pharmacists Association

Maryland Society of Health System Pharmacists

University of Maryland Baltimore School of Pharmacy Student Government Association

University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy Student Government Association

Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy Student Government Association

Affiliate Member – Maryland Association of Chain Drug Stores

Affiliate Member – University of Maryland Baltimore School of Pharmacy

Affiliate Member – University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy

Affiliate Member – Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy