Beginning next year, pharmacists in all settings will be designated as providers in California law and will enjoy new, expanded authorities.

**Travel Medications**

Starting January 1, 2014, pharmacists will be able to independently furnish prescription medications not requiring a diagnosis that are recommended by the CDC for individuals traveling outside of the US. Pharmacists should only furnish travel medications to patients to the extent that their professional judgment and competency in this particular area allows for.

**Lab Tests**

Starting January 1, 2014, pharmacists will be able to order and interpret tests for the purpose of monitoring and managing the efficacy and toxicity of drug therapies if the ordering is done in coordination with the patient’s primary care provider or diagnosing prescriber. This includes promptly transmitting written notification to the patient’s diagnosing prescriber or entering the appropriate information in an electronic health record shared with the prescriber. Pharmacists should only order tests to the extent that it is warranted for proper patient care and to the extent which their training and competency in this area allows for. Also, it is important to realize that although ordering of tests will be permissible under law, there is no guarantee that the test will be covered through your organization’s payment model. However, CSHP is committed to working with payers to cover these new types of pharmacist-provided services.

**WHAT IS SB 493?**

This exciting California legislation will expand the prescriptive authority of pharmacists licensed in the state, helping to increase consumer access to medication therapy and other services.

Nicknamed the “provider status” bill, SB 493 will open the door to new reimbursement opportunities with Medi-Cal and other payers. CSHP is committed to engaging these entities to ensure cognitive based, patient-oriented pharmacy services are reimbursable.

By making it easier for a physician to refer their patients to pharmacists practicing in a wide variety of settings for MTM and other services, SB 493 will help facilitate the development of collaborative relationships between physicians and pharmacists.

**QUESTIONS?**

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