

## Working Group to Study Pharmacist Compensation

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

11:00 AM in Room 2D of the LOB and Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Representative Kerry Wood.

The following working group members were present:

Members: Rep. Wood K. 029, Rep. Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077, Sen. Hwang T. 028, Michelle Pope (Insurance Dept.), Troy Ruff (Dept. of Consumer Protection), Todd DeGroff (Independent Pharmacy), Julian Koruni (Chain Pharmacy), Osama Abdelghany (Health System Pharmacy), Sam Hallemeier (PCMA – PBM Representative), Susan Halpin (Insurance Representative), Marie Smith (UConn School of Pharmacy), Tim Phelan (CT Retail Network – Small Employer), Paul Pescatello (CBIA – Large Employer), Kelly Cote (Access Health CT), Matt Murphy (Health System – Hem/Onc), Ed Schreiner (Northeast Pharmacy Service Corps).

Absent were:

The Working Group to Study Pharmacist Compensation, established under PA 25-167, convened virtually on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 11:00 AM under the leadership of Representative Kerry Wood and Senator Jorge Cabrera.

Representative Jill Barry opened the discussion by outlining the broad scope of pharmacist services, emphasizing responsibilities beyond dispensing such as chronic disease management, medication safety, and testing. Members engaged in a robust dialogue on reimbursement challenges and models. Todd DeGroff and Julian Koruni described pressures faced by independent and chain pharmacies, while Sam Hallemeier of PCMA emphasized the need for billing transparency and standardization. Insurance representative Susan Halpin raised concerns about potential premium increases, while employer perspectives diverged: Tim Phelan stressed the affordability crisis for small businesses, and Paul Pescatello of CBIA called for outcome-based models before coverage expansion. Marie Smith of UConn shared research

demonstrating that pharmacist interventions improve patient adherence and reduce long-term costs, while Michelle Pope of the Insurance Department and Troy Ruff of the Department of Consumer Protection clarified regulatory limitations on prescriptive authority and testing. Additional members Matt Murphy and Ed Schreiner underscored pharmacist roles in oncology care and workforce retention.

The group identified five priority areas for ongoing work: pharmacist scope of services, reimbursement models, examples from other states, insurance savings, and credentialing. Staff were directed to circulate draft agendas and encourage breakout collaboration prior to the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM. The meeting adjourned at 12:27 PM.

Allie Kyff

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Working Group Administrator