

# Collaborative Pharmacy Practice Agreements



## Background

States are continually looking for new and innovative ways to meet the triple aim of health care: lower costs, better outcomes and better quality. As health care delivery becomes more integrated and the use of medications rises, pharmacists are increasingly being looked to as critical members of treatment teams.

## What You Need to Know

Collaborative pharmacy practice agreements are voluntary agreements between a licensed pharmacist and a physician or advanced practice nurse that allow a pharmacist to provide evidence-based health care services to one or more patients pursuant to a specific treatment protocol delegated to a pharmacist by a physician or advanced practice nurse. Collaborative pharmacy practice agreements may also include a statewide drug therapy protocol developed by the State Board of Pharmacy and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for public health care services, including health care services for smoking cessation, travel health services and self-administered hormonal contraception.

[Senate Bill 16-135 \(SB 135\)](#) allows health insurance plans to provide coverage for health care services provided by a pharmacist as part of a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement if certain conditions are met. Specifically, the health plan must provide coverage for the same service if it is provided by a licensed physician or an advanced practice nurse, and the pharmacist must be included in the insurer's network of participating providers.

The State Board of Pharmacy, the Colorado Medical Board and the State Board of Nursing must jointly create rules governing collaborative pharmacy practice agreements. Rulemaking hearings are not scheduled as of publication.

## Additional Resources

- [SB 135 Fiscal Note](#)
- [“Collaborative Practice Agreements and Pharmacists’ Patient Care Services,” the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, October 2013](#)
- [“The Expanding Role of Pharmacists in a Transformed Health Care System,” the National Governor’s Association, January 2010](#)
- SB 135 took effect on Aug. 10, 2016. Rules are forthcoming from the Colorado Pharmacy Board, the Colorado Medical Board and the Colorado State Board of Nursing.

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