

# Pharmacist Collaborative Practice Agreements: Key Elements for Legislative and Regulatory Authority

What is a  
**CPA?**

A collaborative practice agreement (CPA):

- ✓ Creates a formal relationship between pharmacists and physicians or other providers
- ✓ Defines certain patient care functions that a pharmacist can autonomously provide under specified situations and conditions
- ✓ Many are used to expand the depth and breadth of services the pharmacist can provide to patients and the healthcare team

## Support from the National Governors Association

In their report, "The Expanding Role of Pharmacists in a Transformed Health Care System," the National Governors Association posed the following policy considerations:

- Enact broad collaborative practice provisions that allow for specific provider functions to be determined at the provider level rather than set in state statute or through regulation.
- Evaluate practice setting and drug therapy restrictions to determine whether pharmacists and providers face disincentives that unnecessarily discourage collaborative arrangements.
- Examine whether CPAs unnecessarily dictate disease or patient specificity.

# Recommendations for Legislative and Regulatory Authority

From the NASPA-Convened Collaborative Practice Workgroup

Builds on the NGA policy considerations with additional specificity to guide policy making

Identifies which elements should be defined at the state level versus at the individual practitioner level

Based on the interests of the patient and pharmacist education and training

## Included in Laws and Regulations

*Framework should be flexible to facilitate innovation in care delivery*

## Decided by Individual Practitioners

*Safeguards should be established to ensure optimal patient care*

### Participants

- » Any prescriber may collaborate with pharmacists.
- » Single or multiple pharmacists/prescribers may be parties to one agreement.
- » Single, multiple and populations of patients can be on one agreement.

- » Specifically list which pharmacists and prescribers are included in agreement.
- » Identify the pharmacist training or credentials, if any, necessary to provide delineated services.
- » Identify which specific patients or patient populations are included in agreement.

### Authorized Services

- » Initiation and modification of drug therapy can be authorized in the agreement.

- » Specify which disease states are being managed.
- » Specify which specific services are included.
- » Specify if/which protocols or clinical guidelines are to be followed.

### Requirements & Restrictions

- » All medications may be managed under the agreement, including controlled substances.
- » Agreement should be available, upon request, to the Board of Pharmacy.

- » Specify an appropriate level of patient consent for services.
- » Specify the timeframe for renewal of agreement.
- » Specify the documentation processes.
- » Specify the liability insurance needs, if any.
- » Identify the continuing education requirements for participation.

Download the full report at: <http://naspa.us/resource/cpa-report/>

