Committee:New York City Society of Health-system Pharmacists

**Topic: Pharmacists’ involvement in the telemedicine and provision of clinical services in order to improve patient health outcomes**

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Whereas, telemedicine is defined as the delivery of health care services, when distance, time, and access to health care are critical factors, by health care professionals using information and communication technologies for the exchange of valid information for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation1

Whereas, pharmacists providing services through telemedicine allow expanding distinct patient consultation regarding medication therapy in underserved communities through enhancing access, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health care6

Whereas a pharmacist part of an interdisciplinary diabetes telehealth team can provide education to assess adherence, knowledge of medications, and injection technique; review blood glucose logs to identify trends and identify barriers to offer individualized strategies to improve adherence2

Whereas, since introducing clinical pharmacists to the workflow at the Telehealth Hub, pharmacists have reached more than 1,200 veterans with diabetes, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and other chronic conditions. The technology has proven to be cost-effective and well-received to deliver pharmaceutical services in patients residing in remote areas6,7

Whereas the growth of telehealth services, particularly within medication therapy management (MTM), presents new employment opportunities for pharmacists8

Whereas, pharmacists are qualified to perform Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM) in New York state by providing clinical services to improve health, safety and cost-effectiveness in the management of chronic disease states, such as diabetes, asthma, heart failure and anticoagulation to improve health outcomes and reduce overall health care costs such as hospital re-admissions

Resolved That:

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists supports the inclusion of pharmacists in telemedicine in order to improve health outcomes and supports pharmacists as qualified practitioners for the purpose of improving the telehealth benefit in New York State.

Date: October 28, 2019

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Kateryna Kovalenko, PharmD Candidate 2020

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Jamie Chin, MS, PharmD, BCOP

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