

NYSCHP | New York State
Council of Health-system
Pharmacists

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May 29, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists and the approximately 2,000 pharmacists we represent, we ask you to enact an Executive Order to remove the written consent requirement for Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM) during the current crisis.

As our State grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our citizens have turned to tele-health services to avoid going into a provider's office or a hospital. This allows them to reduce the possible exposure to the virus for them and others living in their households. The current written consent requirement is a barrier for individuals to receive CDTM services through tele-health during the pandemic. Many individuals do not feel comfortable entering a provider's office, clinic or hospital simply to sign paperwork. Many of those utilizing CDTM services also live in low-income areas where access to the internet and fax machines are limited. This only serves to deepen the health disparities that the pandemic has highlighted.

CDTM has proven very successful across the United States in managing chronic, high cost health conditions. This has been particularly beneficial to poor and underserved areas. In most states where CDTM is practiced there is no written consent requirement at all. The temporary suspension of the written consent requirement will provide patients to better access to these services until the end of the current crisis. This will expand access to CDTM services and in the process improve health outcomes and lower the costs to payers including the State of New York.

The Council believes that no patient should have to choose between receiving essential health care services and potential exposure to a deadly virus. Removal of the written consent requirement for CDTM will eliminate a barrier to care and provide those patients some piece of mind during a time where that is in short supply. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shaun Flynn
Executive Director