

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Vice President Pence, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy,
and Leader Schumer:

As representative organizations of the pharmaceutical supply and payment chain, including prescription and over-the-counter brand and generic manufacturers; wholesalers; retail, specialty, and managed care pharmacies; health insurance providers and other payers; pharmacists in hospitals and health systems; and pharmacy benefit managers, we are coming together to work on policy solutions to ensure patients have access to essential medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our primary concern is the health and well-being of patients, including ensuring that patients with chronic conditions have continued access to the medicines they need. We recognize that all of us in the pharmaceutical supply and payment chain have a responsibility to take action to help prevent and mitigate drug shortages and ensure patient access to care.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are serious concerns that disruptions in the pharmaceutical supply chain, which relies on international suppliers, could lead to an increase in drug shortages. In addition, as more people stock up on maintenance medicines and the need for essential medicines increases as a result of COVID-19 hospitalizations, prompt action is necessary to help mitigate and prevent drug shortages for patients.

The companies and organizations we represent continuously assess their supply chains for drug shortages and potential disruptions to supply, and collaborate with federal, state, and local public health agencies to share critical information and partner on efforts to sustain access to care with as little disruption as possible. As a result, and despite challenges, the pharmaceutical supply chain remains strong and resilient, and Americans continue to have access to a safe, effective, and reliable supply of prescription drugs and other medications.

Our organizations have substantial, collective experience in helping to mitigate drug access concerns in the event of shortages – whether the result of market, public health, or environmental forces. And we pledge to continue to work collaboratively with each other and with policymakers

Vice President Pence and Congressional Leaders
May 27, 2020
Page 2

to identify problems and ensure the supply chain is functioning well as we confront this unprecedented health care system challenge.

As part of our organizations' combined efforts to collaborate with federal and state officials to meet the common goals of a secure and safe supply chain and continued patient access to medicines, we have agreed on a common set of policy principles. We hope policymakers find these useful as they consider steps to address drug shortages.

Sincerely,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
America's Health Insurance Plans
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Association for Accessible Medicines
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
FMI – the Food Industry Association
Healthcare Distribution Alliance
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy
National Grocers Association
Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

Enclosure: Pharmaceutical Supply and Payment Chain Coalition Principles