ODM pharmacists can now enroll as provider

Ohio Medicaid pharmacists now authorized to apply for provider status. Move strengthens ODM's health care network, increasing access to important clinical services for Ohioans

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COLUMBUS, Ohio — Pharmacists affiliated with the Ohio Medicaid program now have the opportunity to enroll as recognized providers, introducing a new dimension of clinically sound health care support to more than 3 million Ohioans.

ODM adopted the measure authorized by the Ohio General Assembly to expand access to value-added services in rural and other communities where limited access to medical care may exist. It allows an enrolled pharmacist to manage medication therapy in collaboration with a prescribing medical professional; administer a wider range of immunizations, including childhood immunizations; and administer certain injectable medications as permitted by state law.

"As experts in medication therapy, Ohio pharmacists are licensed and well prepared to help manage chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure outside of a formal health care setting," said Maureen Corcoran, director of ODM. "They also are authorized under state law to perform certain clinical activities in partnership with physicians and other prescribers. These services already are available to many Ohioans with private insurance and through pharmacies affiliated with our five managed care organizations. This new program fills in the gaps by providing access closer to home to more Medicaid recipients."

Assisting individuals to manage their medications and providing help closer to home, will help communities around the state fill an important health care void. As of Jan. 17, Ohio Medicaid will reimburse enrolled pharmacists in fulfilling a role for which they are trained and licensed provides one more tool to help address the gap.

The program is part of ODM's renewed emphasis on patient-focused health care and more efficient and transparent delivery processes. For example, in June, ODM authorized Ohio pharmacies serving Medicaid beneficiaries to submit COVID-19 diagnostic testing claims for Medicaid reimbursement.