

**Statement from Utah Society of Health-System Pharmacists on the closure of Intermountain
Healthcare's community pharmacies**

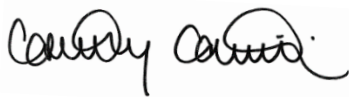
We at USHP are very disappointed to learn about the closure of 25 community pharmacies in the state of Utah affecting about 250 pharmacy staff members. First, we offer our support for those pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns, and other pharmacy staff who will be suddenly losing their positions within the community. Second, we also offer our support to the patients whose care is impacted by these changes.

Community pharmacies are valuable resources that provide access to medical care that may not be readily available, especially in rural areas. Financially motivated closure or consolidation of community pharmacies is a growing trend, and it presents serious concerns for their future and the impact on their tremendous value to patients. Health-system community pharmacies are not alone in facing challenges with increasing expectations yet lower reimbursements. Many independent and small chain community pharmacies are facing these struggles as well. Continuous advocacy for these pharmacies is an imperative, albeit complicated, mission.

Another major concern with these particular closures is the loss of innovative services like the Med-READI discharge prescription delivery service. Services of this kind provide medication reconciliation, counseling, and delivery of prescriptions to patients upon discharge, ensuring continuity during transitions of care. This focus on medication continuity has been shown to decrease both hospital readmission rates and healthcare utilization [references on following page]. With the loss of these services, transitions of care may suffer as these responsibilities inevitably fall on already overloaded other members of the healthcare team.

As a health-system focused organization, we cannot hide our apprehension regarding the trend of closures of community pharmacies. USHP's own mission is to advance public health and improve patient outcomes. Part of that advancement and improvement involves close relationships with our community pharmacy team members. The best patient care involves collaboration across all settings of healthcare. This collaboration creates strong relationships not only between healthcare providers, but also between patients and their healthcare teams. USHP will continue to advocate for the value of community pharmacies and support affected pharmacy team members during their transition.

On behalf of the USHP Board of Directors,



Courtney C. Cavalieri, PharmD, BCOP
USHP President, 2020-2021

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