

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association is at work for you!

The TPA is dedicated to advancing, representing, and protecting the practice of pharmacy in all practice settings.

What has TPA done for you lately?

- Developed a TPA website [<http://www.tnpharm.org>] to provide timely communication.
- Successfully lobbied to have legislation re-enacted to allow freedom of choice of pharmacy providers by patients.
- Successfully lobbied to have legislation enacted to prohibit recoupment of payments made by health insurers and HMOs to pharmacists and legislation enacted to regulate the sale and promotion of health-related cash discount cards in Tennessee.
- Monitored activities and meetings of the Tennessee Department of Health Task Force for Unusual Incidents. Collected and disseminated information to leadership of TSHP and TSLTCP. Provided opportunity and process for input from TPA members.
- TPA arranged for a negotiating meeting during which representatives of the Medical Laboratory Board agreed to amend their list of Waived Tests for Tennessee to *include* CLIA-waived testing for cholesterol and lipids and CLIA-waived testing for blood coagulation conducted by pharmacists. TPA and the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy will work with officials and members of the Medical Laboratories Board and with the Tennessee Medical Association in this process.
- Continued to provide information and testimony on pharmacy issues to legislative committees, including the TennCare Oversight Committee, Senate Commerce Committee, Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, House Health and Human Resources Committee, House Industrial Impact Subcommittee, and House Commerce Committee.
- Intervened in the *Grier Revised Consent Decree* matter, including filing motions in court on behalf of pharmacists. As the November 1, 2000, implementation date approached and there was no definitive process in place for pharmacy providers, the Tennessee Pharmacists Association took the lead in having the process defined. When neither the state nor the MCOs communicated with pharmacy providers, TPA prepared and sent essential information to those pharmacy providers.
- Fought for the rights of pharmacists to remain in pharmacy networks and continue serving their patients through meetings with decision-makers, and communications from TPA and its legal counsel.
- Represented pharmacists with various state governmental agencies and task forces, such as the Department of Health, the TennCare Bureau, the TennCare Steering Committee and its Pharmacy Subcommittee, and the Commission on the Future of TennCare.
- Provided Immunization Certification Programs through the Tennessee Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation.
- Monitored the Xantus Receivership Plan court action on behalf of pharmacies to seek distribution of dollars available for pharmacy program debt to pharmacies.
- Met with members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation and their staff on issues important to pharmacists, including recognition of pharmacists as health care providers and plans for the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

Here are a few more of the benefits of TPA membership.

- Access to the TPA staff to assist with professional problems and issues.
- Discounted registration fees for TPA meetings and University of Tennessee Continuing Education Programs for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.
- Increased networking opportunities through participation in committees, task forces, and TPA's seven interest-centered, practice-setting-specific societies.
- Opportunity to participate in the development of positions, policy, and legislation affecting pharmacy practice in Tennessee.
- Legislative representation and lobbying at the state and national levels, including coordinating grassroots efforts to inform legislators on issues critical to pharmacists.
- Access to discounted prices on several products, publications, and services.
- Representation with national pharmacy organizations: American Pharmaceutical Association, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, and National Community Pharmacists Association.
- Coordination of meetings for local associations, including providing mailing for meetings and obtaining ACPE-approved CE.
- Assistance to pharmacists and families who face problems resulting from pharmacist drug or alcohol addiction and support and advocacy for pharmacists in recovery through the Tennessee Pharmacists Recovery Network.
- Access to TPA communications, including a subscription to the *Tennessee Pharmacist*, the only publication in the state dedicated to news affecting pharmacy and pharmacists in Tennessee.
- Access to special professional and personal insurance programs designed to meet the specific needs of pharmacists through Pharmacists Mutual.