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MEDCHI AND UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY'S CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE PHARMACY SOLUTIONS PARTNER TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF STATE LAW ON PHYSICIAN DISPENSING

BALTIMORE, February 27, 2015 — The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions (CIPS) and MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, have partnered to offer continuing education courses for physicians who dispense medications to patients at their practices. This comes after the passage of a new law in the State that requires physicians who want to dispense medications at their practices to complete a number of continuing medical education credits specific to the practice of dispensing.

“As leaders in pharmacy practice, faculty at the School of Pharmacy, through our Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, are committed to improving patients’ health through innovation, collaboration, and advocacy,” says Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FCP, FAAPS, dean and professor of the School and executive director of University regional partnerships. “We are proud to work with MedChi to provide physicians across the state with thorough training on proper medication dispensing practices. The cutting-edge continuing education courses taught by members of our faculty will not only support dispensing physicians in their successful completion of the requirements under the new state law, but also promote consistency and high quality dispensing of prescription medications in all settings across the state of Maryland.”

MedChi and CIPS are working collaboratively to develop six or more continuing education modules that will be released for physicians across the state in four phases. The modules, collectively titled the “Physician Dispensing in Maryland Educational Series,” have been designed and will be delivered by the CIPS Knowledge Enterprise -- an innovative online learning platform that offers a convenient way for health care professionals to advance their knowledge, enhance their clinical practice skills, and sharpen their competitive edge. The first three modules were released earlier in February.

“MedChi is thrilled to work with the medication experts at the School of Pharmacy to provide top-notch continuing education on dispensing practices for physicians across the state of Maryland,” says Gene M. Ransom III, CEO of MedChi. “We are pleased the program has been approved by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Board of Physicians to fulfill the State’s new dispensing education requirement. MedChi remains dedicated to serving as Maryland’s foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health. This new collaboration promotes public health by helping physicians and pharmacists work collaboratively to serve the best interests of their patients.”

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, FAPhA, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) at the School and executive director of CIPS, adds, “The School’s partnership with MedChi represents a crucial step towards providing

more team-based care for patients in the state of Maryland. Collaborations such as this between physicians and pharmacists help to ensure that we provide optimal use of the therapeutic agents that are available, as well as reinforce the importance of medication safety and continuity of care. We look forward to future collaborative efforts with MedChi to continue improving the health of Maryland citizens.”

Under the new state law, physicians are required to complete 10 Continuing Medical Education credits (CMEs) on proper dispensing practices within five years of submitting or renewing their permit to dispense medications at their practices, beginning in 2018.

For more information about the continuing education courses available through the partnership between the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and MedChi, please visit www.pharmacists4knowledge.org.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.

About the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

Established in 1841, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is a thriving center for professional and graduate education, pharmaceutical care, research, and community service. We create the future of pharmacy by pioneering new roles for pharmacists in advanced clinical practice and conducting cutting-edge research in drug discovery and development, comparative effectiveness and patient-centered outcomes, and disease management. Our faculty inspire excellence in our more than 800 students, residents, and postdoctoral fellows through a contemporary curriculum, innovative educational experiences, and strategic professional relationships. We are critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and leaders who are sought for our expertise.