Pharmacist Talking Points

- Pharmacists are an essential part of the healthcare team, focused on medications
- Pharmacists improve access to care, improve outcomes, reduce costs
- Help with solutions to the healthcare and budget crises
- Trained for minimum of 6 years – pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, therapeutic drug monitoring, interview skills
- Medication regimens are complex, multiple providers and disease states, OTC meds
- Review meds from all physicians including mental health and medical, OTC, nutritional supplements, tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, medical marijuana
- Assess for appropriateness, effectiveness, safety, adherence
- Monitor for metabolic effects, drug interactions
- Identify and solve medication-related problems
- Pharmacists are underutilized as a healthcare professional
- Pharmacists can help improve physician efficiency in providing care for patients with mental illnesses
- Shortage of psychiatrists and predicted shortage of primary care providers – pharmacists are trained and can be helpful in alleviating these shortages
- Pharmacists are in most communities including rural areas
- Underserved population, high cost for Medicare, Medicaid
- Improve outcomes – encourage adherence, manage adverse effects
- Reduce costs – eliminate unnecessary or duplicate medications, generic or therapeutic substitution, reduce ED visits, reduce hospital readmissions

Other Opportunities to Interact with Your Congressmen

Please check with your employer before you invite a Congressman to visit your practice site. Some CPNP members may not be able to invite legislators to their practice site. If not, consider requesting an appointment to meet with your Congressman, as a constituent and concerned pharmacist, in their office when they are in your home district. Call the scheduler in their Washington DC office and request a meeting. If the Congressman is
not available, consider meeting with a health policy staff member. Consider sending your talking points in advance to allow them to prepare for your meeting and provide them a take home at the time of the visit. When meeting with a Member of Congress, if appropriate, make sure he or she understands that you are meeting as a constituent and a member of CPNP and not necessarily as a representative of your employer. Some employers will not want their name attached to any lobbying effort.