NCSL Hot Topics Session:
New Medicines: Opportunities and Challenges

SUMMARY: The latest breakthrough biologic and "specialty" medicines treat the same conditions as traditional pharmaceuticals but often using non-identical living cells. Find out what states can do to make them more safe, accessible and affordable for patients who need them.

BACKGROUND: Legislative hot topics include:

- How do states approach regulation of specialty drugs, including limits on consumer co-pays, enhanced cost transparency and state-negotiated discounts or utilization rules?
- What is happening with new laws that facilitate substitution of the just-approved “interchangeable biosimilar” products to replace already-approved original biologic medicines?
- New and upcoming “blockbuster” cancer, multiple sclerosis and hepatitis C drugs: Who is eligible, who pays?
- The recent “Right to Try” experimental drugs phenomenon, begun by state legislators, resulting in at least 22 brand new enacted laws in less than 18 months. Will they save lives or end up in court?
- How are states assuring safe products from Compounding Pharmacies?

Co-Facilitators:
Senator Linda Evans Parlette, Senate majority caucus chair; pharmacist, Washington State
Delegate Don Perdue, vice chair of NCSL Standing Committees; pharmacist, West Virginia

Panelists:
Dr. William Chin, MD, executive vice president of Science and Regulatory Affairs, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), Washington, D.C.
Chin is the executive vice president, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, PhRMA beginning in July 2013 where he leads PhRMA’s continuing efforts in science advocacy in the drug discovery and development ecosystem. Formerly, he was the executive dean for research and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS). Prior to HMS, Chin was at Eli Lilly and Company for 10 years, most recently as senior vice president for Discovery Research and Clinical Investigation. He received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School

Jerry Dubberly, PharmD, Myers and Stauffer LC; formerly director and pharmacy director, Georgia Medicaid, Georgia
Dubberly currently serves as the director of Quality Analytics, Design, and Payment for Myers and Stauffer LC. From 2008 to January 2015 he was Medicaid director as well as Medicaid pharmacy director for the state of Georgia. Prior to his public service, he worked extensively in the Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) industry and as a practicing pharmacist.
Stakeholder Responses:

Chad O. Murphy, PharmD, Premera Blue Cross V-P of Pharmacy, Washington/Alaska
Dana Malick, senior specialist, State and Local Campaigns, American Cancer Society Action Network, Colorado

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