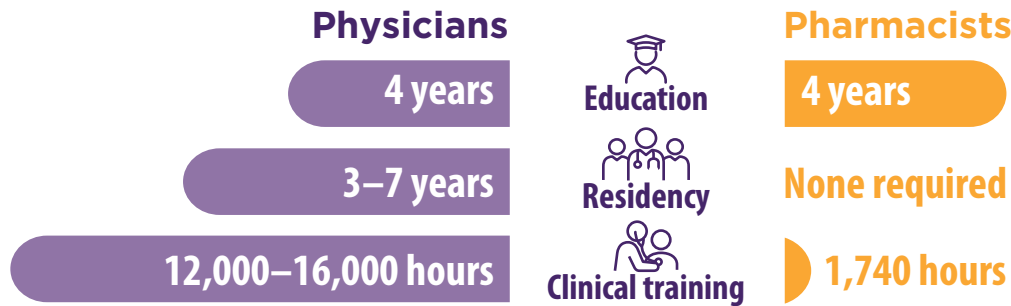


Protect physician-led care

Patients are concerned about the quality of health care, and they want physicians leading their health care team. Convenience should not come at the cost of safe and quality care. Pharmacists are medication experts, but they are not trained to take on the role of primary care provider. Allowing them to diagnose and treat patients without physician oversight is a dangerous step in the wrong direction. The best way to support high-quality care is to keep physicians as the leader of the health care team.

PHYSICIANS ARE TRAINED TO LEAD



PHARMACISTS ARE NOT TRAINED TO DIAGNOSE PATIENTS

	Physician education includes:	Pharmacist education does <u>NOT</u> include:
Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Performing differential diagnoses ✓ Developing a treatment plan within the context of a patient’s overall health condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Making a diagnosis ✗ Performing differential diagnosis ✗ Conducting a physical examination
Treating illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Treating patients representing a broad range of illness and disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Required exposure to patients with any specific medical conditions
Care across the lifespan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each phase of the human life cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Required time with patients of any particular age

Some legislation would allow pharmacists to diagnose and treat patients over the pharmacy counter, relying only on the results of a laboratory test. This puts patients at risk. An isolated lab test depicts only a sliver of a patient’s overall health—not enough to determine a course of treatment.


“ While pharmacists are highly trained and licensed professionals, they did not attend medical school and are not trained as physicians. They do not examine or diagnose patients. They do not write prescriptions. And with only very limited exceptions permitted by law, pharmacists are bound to respect a prescribing doctor’s professional medical judgment about which medications are appropriate to treat a particular patient under the doctor’s care. ”
–CVS

PHARMACISTS ARE ALREADY DANGEROUSLY OVERBURDENED

91% of pharmacists in chain settings rated their workload as high or excessively high

75% of pharmacists in chain settings said they already have so much work to do that everything cannot be done well

PATIENTS PREFER PHYSICIAN-LED CARE

91%  say a physician’s education and training are vital for optimal care

3/4 would wait longer and pay more to be treated by a physician

95%  say it’s important for a physician to be involved in their diagnosis and treatment

Physician-led health care teams are critical to achieve the best and safest outcomes for patients.