# Accessible Prescription Labeling Fact Sheet

**Enact legislation to establish accessible prescription drug labels.**

**Patients who are sight-impaired or print-disabled are at risk of taking the wrong medication or taking the wrong dosage. They are not able to read the warnings or special instructions for their drug. Other risks include taking expired medications, not being able to obtain refills in a timely manner and being unable to detect pharmacy errors.**

**Both maintenance and acute medications, which can be new and unknown to consumers, should have accessible labels. These medications should be offered at the pharmacy window with similar wait times as sighted consumers.**

**Lawmakers should consider the prohibition of mailing of schedule II drugs and the need for consumers to have access to the prescription label information for these highly addictive and dangerous drugs. The prohibition of mailing schedule II drugs along with making the prescription label information of such drugs available in an accessible format has the potential to greatly reduce addiction and accidental overdoses.**

**When prescribed a medication, sight-impaired and print-disabled patients have the right to know all the printed label information: they have a right to obtain an accessible prescription label with all the legal label information, provided at the window, in the same time frame that other consumers receive information in a format that is easy for them to access based on their needs. Patients may be considered sight-impaired if they are blind or have low vision, and considered print-disabled if they are illiterate, dyslexic, have atraumatic brain injury or any other condition that makes reading difficult.**

There are already federal laws which have provisions to secure accommodations for the nation’s sight-impaired and print-disabled population. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Americans with Disabilities Act amendments of 2010, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 and the Affordable Care Act of 2010.

Unfortunately, because of the complexity of these laws many pharmacies are not complying or have only partially implemented compliance. State legislation can help clarify and standardize in statute how a state will observe federal laws that protect and support vulnerable populations. **The model accessible prescription label bill will establish the following:**

**Accessible prescription label formats are available. In 2013 the US Access Board, at the behest of Congress, created a list of Best Practices to help pharmacists better understand how to accommodate blind, low vision and elderly patients. Pharmacies need to be made aware of these best practices and put them to use.**

**Accessible label formats should abide by ADA, HIPAA and the US Access Board Best Practices and include:**

**• All the legal label information and warnings provided**

**• Large print, audible, Braille or electronic format**

**• Preservation of patient privacy**

**• Provision at the window in the same time frame as would be provided to patients without impairment**

A pharmacy shall make available at no additional cost, and notify consumers of the availability of accessible prescription labels for individuals who have a visual impairment or print impairment by including a label which provides for any of the following delivery methods:

(1) Audible prescription information.

(2) Prescription information in braille.

(3) Prescription information printed in a high-contrast large font.

(4) Digital Voice or Text to Speech recorder

(5) Radio Frequency Identification Device

(6) Smart Devices and Computers

The state pharmacy board shall promulgate regulations necessary for implementation of this law.

**PROTECT BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED INDIVIDUALS AND AFFORD THEM THE RIGHT TO ACCESS PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION IN AN ACCESSIBLE FORMAT.**

**Enact legislation to establish procedural safeguards now.**

**For more information, contact:**

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