



Closing Care Gaps: Through Innovative Pharmacy Based Test & Treat Policy

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In partnership with:



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

Local Solutions Communities Can Count On

• A HEALTHCARE ACCESS CRISIS

-  Primary care shortages push patients toward **expensive urgent care and emergency departments** for routine conditions
-  **Evening and weekend needs go unmet** — vulnerable populations are left without care when traditional providers close
-  Rural and underserved communities face the steepest barriers: **long distances, limited providers, and few alternatives**

PHARMACIES STAND IN THE GAP

60,000

pharmacies nationwide

9 in 10



Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy

10x

more pharmacy visits than other care settings

58%

of Americans would seek non-emergency care at a pharmacy first

 Medicare patients: **13 pharmacy visits vs. 7 PCP visits/year**
 Rural Medicare: **14 pharmacy vs. 5 PCP visits annually**

 **30% of pharmacy visits happen outside normal office hours** — evenings, weekends, and holidays

The Case for Pharmacy Based Care

Research proves pharmacy-based care is **COSTEFFECTIVE**

- Pharmacies **saved more than \$450 billion** in healthcare costs during the public health emergency.
- Research shows the median cost of care at traditional care sites was **nearly \$280 higher than care provided at pharmacies.**
- Pharmacy-based test-and-treat services can help **avoid costly ED and urgent care visits** by managing certain conditions more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Research proves pharmacy-based care **IMPROVES HEALTH**

- Pharmacies prevented **more than 8 million** hospitalizations and saved **more than 1 million** lives during the public health emergency.
- Pharmacist-led chronic disease programs **improve A1c and Blood Pressure** control.
- Early diagnosis and treatment lead to **better health outcomes**, more efficient use of antibiotics and antivirals, and reduced risk of complications associated with disease progression

Public opinion shows pharmacy-based care has **OVERWHELMING SUPPORT**

- 85% of Americans say pharmacies are the **easiest healthcare setting to access.**
- 81% of Americans support **permanent access to pharmacy testing and treatment services.**
- 79% of Americans **trust their pharmacist** when it comes to patient-centered healthcare.

Rural Health Transformation Program

In response to Rural Health Transformation Program funding, 14 states committed to advancing pharmacist test & treat legislation.

This approach supports pharmacist authority to provide care for:

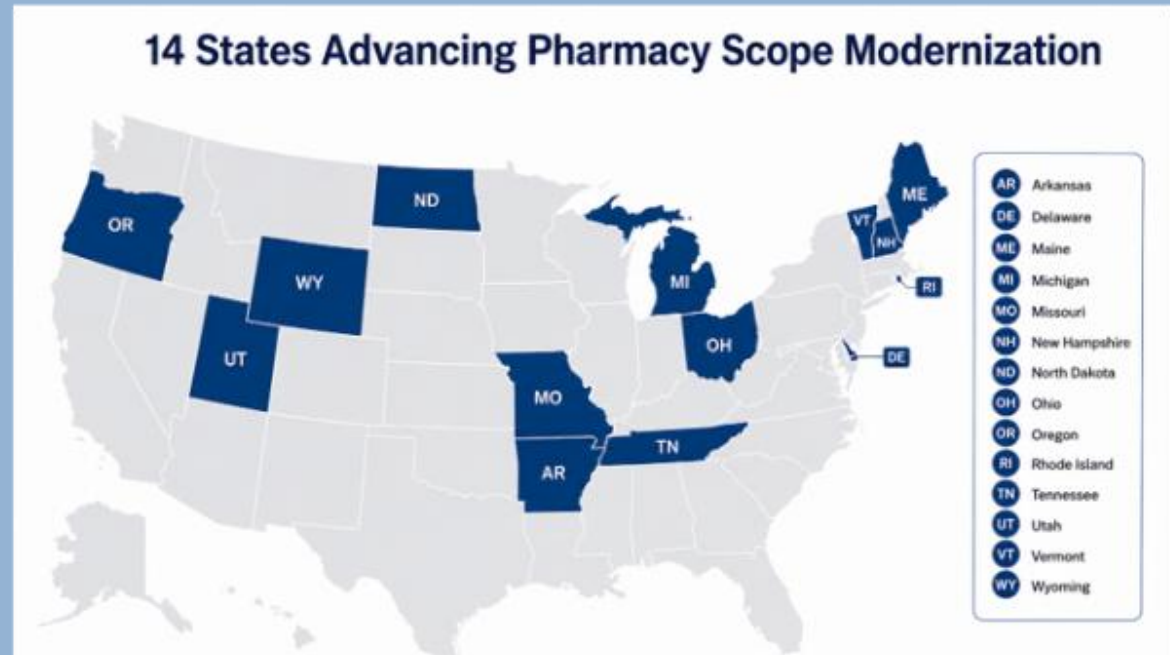
- General health and wellness
- Disease prevention
- Minor/self-limiting conditions
- CLIA-waived test-based conditions

State Progress:

- MI Enacted 2025-28-LR
- ND Enacted SB 2402
- VT Enacted HB 588

Honorable Mentions:

- CO HB 1336: independent prescriptive authority (awaiting Governor's signature)
- KS HB 2068: independent prescriptive authority (enacted)





What to Know About Test and Treat

Walmart stores are within 10 miles of 90 percent of the population in the U.S., so our pharmacies are the **frontlines of healthcare**, especially in rural and medically underserved areas. Our pharmacies are not only convenient, but we offer a full range of products and services, including prescription medications, starting at just \$4. In addition, our pharmacists administer immunizations and screenings and are available to provide tailored counseling and education about medications, nutrition, health and wellness. And now, Walmart pharmacies in **21 states offer Test and Treat**, giving customers access to **affordable, high-quality and immediate medical treatment** in store for COVID-19, flu and strep throat.



Available States (as of May 2026)

- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Florida
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Depth and Breadth of Pharmacy Services

**PREVENTIVE
CARE &
VACCINE
ACCESS**

**ADHERENCE
AND
MEDICATION
THERAPY**

**BLOOD
PRESSURE &
HEART HEALTH**

**DIABETES
SUPPORT**

**ASTHMA/
COPD
MANAGEMENT**

**TESTING AND
TREATING FOR
ROUTINE
ILLNESSES**

**WOMEN'S
HEALTH**

GAPS IN CARE

**HIV
PREVENTION**

**MENTAL AND
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH**



FLU, COVID, STREP THROAT, UTI, STD/STI



How It Works

- 1 Customer walks in or schedules appointment on Walmart app or Walmart.com
- 2 Pharmacist reviews symptoms and eligibility
- 3 Pharmacist provides up to three tests with results available in just 15 minutes
- 4 Eligible cases receive same-day treatment and prescriptions, starting at just \$4



Scan to learn more.

May 2026

[Health & Wellness](#) / [Pharmacy](#) / [Health Services](#) / [Testing & Treatment](#)

Health & Wellness

- Pharmacy
- Vision Center
- Insurance Services

Pharmacy Health Services

Testing & Treatment for Strep Throat, Flu & COVID-19

Feeling sick? Our pharmacists now provide same day diagnostic testing and prescription treatment so you can feel better fast.

[Schedule now](#)

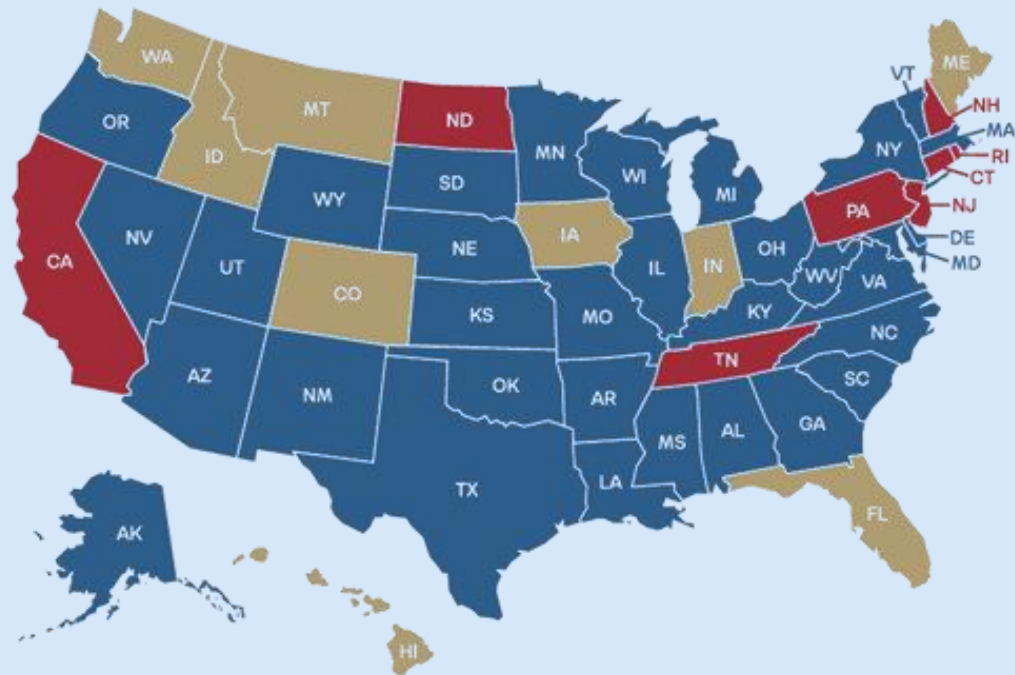
- Easy online scheduling. Walk-in appointments are also welcome.
- Available in: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin & Wyoming.
- Coverage by insurance, HSA, FSA or HRA may vary. Contact your insurance for coverage details.

*Available at select locations. Ask your pharmacist if you are eligible.



State Authority Landscape

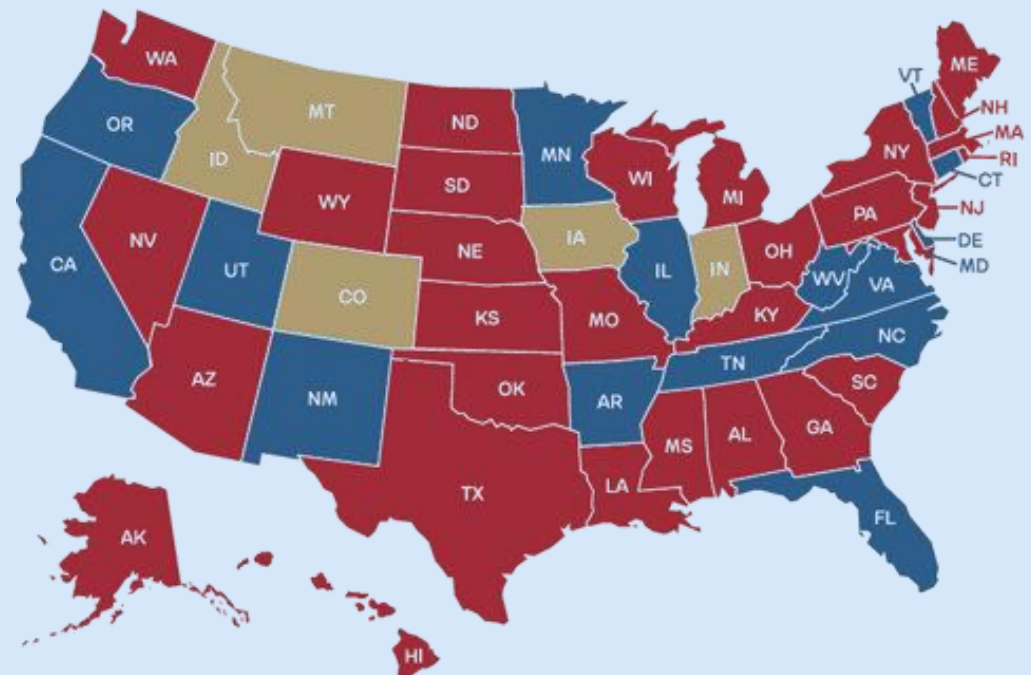
TESTING AUTHORITY



Color Key

- Laws are Innovation Ready: Full Authority
- Improvements Needed: CLIA-Waived Authority
- Barriers to Innovation in Place: Restricted Authority

INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBING

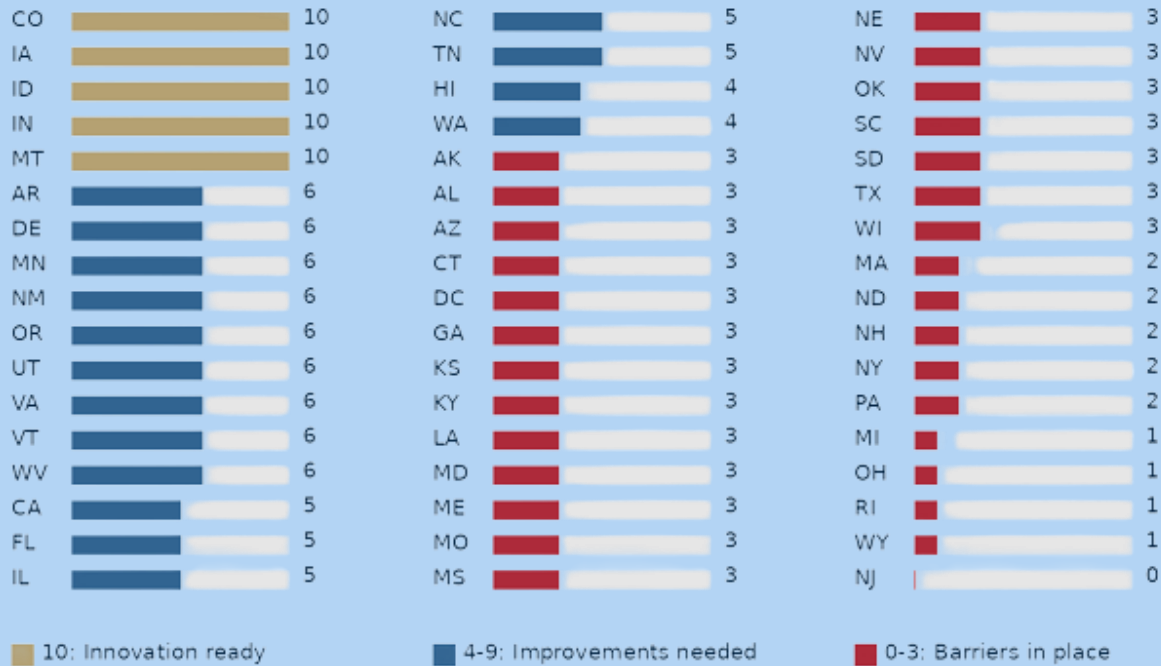


Color Key

- Laws are Innovation Ready: Full Authority
- Improvements Needed: Formulary-Based Authority
- Barriers to Innovation in Place: Restricted Authority

Patient access depends on the full chain: test authority + prescribing authority + payment pathway.

Cicero Outtake: Scores by State



4.1

AVERAGE STATE SCORE

5 states

INNOVATION READY:
CO, ID, IN, IA, MT

30 states

SCORE 0-3:
BARRIERS IN PLACE

- Cicero scores each state across drug administration, laboratory testing, and independent prescribing.
- Independent prescribing carries the largest weight in the 10-point score.

Expertise of Pharmacy Technicians

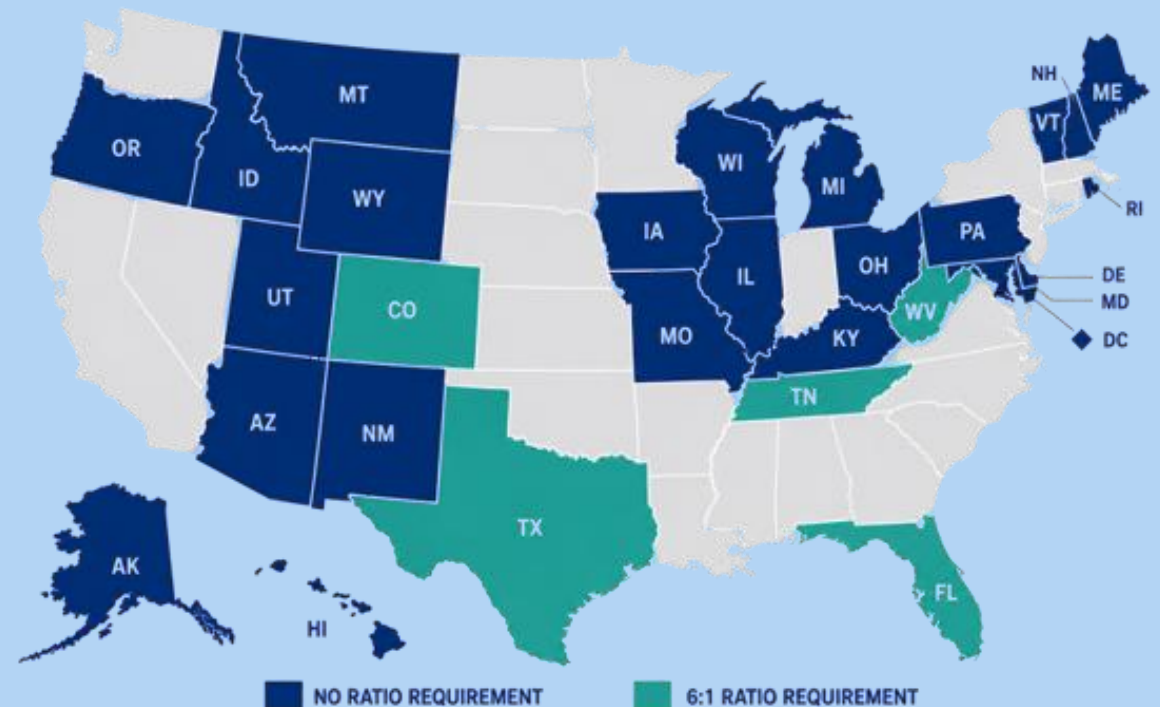
Expertise of Pharmacy Technicians

- Essential members of the pharmacy team
- Support pharmacists in dispensing and free up more time for pharmacists to provide clinical care
- Integral to building and strengthening trusted, patient relationships
- Placeholder - Walmart's technician programs/investing

Impact of Restrictive Technician Ratios

- Limits workflow flexibility
- Reduces pharmacist time available for patient care
- Restricts scalability of test & treat and preventive services
- Creates staffing inefficiencies across high-volume pharmacies

States with Broad Pharmacist:Tech Ratio



As pharmacists take on expanded clinical responsibilities, technician support becomes increasingly essential to maintaining safe and efficient operations.

THANK YOU!

Questions?

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