



**A message from our President!**

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2024 is ending and here in the Carolinas we couldn't be more pleased with what a successful year the AMCP Carolinas Affiliate has accomplished! From starting the year at AMCP Annual in New Orleans where I became the President and Ranarda Jones President-Elect, to closing this year with an OVER THE TOP Day of Education, we have continued to show in the Carolinas **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!** **A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024 CAROLINAS AFFILIATE YEAR:**

- Genuine friendships being established.
- Professional relationships have been enhanced due to opportunities to network together.
- Legislative representation has been spotlighted on a national level.
- Member growth continues to rise.
- Communications on Instagram and LinkedIn are continuous with rising views.
- Pharmacy students continue to become more and more involved.
- Educational opportunities have been executed with such passion and enthusiasm one couldn't help to leave without learning something new!

I also can't thank our SPONSORS enough for supporting our affiliate with each event! Thank you to all our officers, committees' chairs, vice-chairs, and members for all the hard work that was put into 2024!

I hope your holiday season is cozy and your New Year full of light and love from the beginning! I can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for us all! Thank you for being a part of the AMCP Carolinas Affiliate!

Thankful for EACH of YOU!

Molly Hinely

**Carolinas AMCP Affiliate MENTORSHIP PROGRAM is available for ALL MEMBERS of AMCP Carolinas.**

**See the QR CODE BELOW TO REGISTER**

**AMCP Carolinas**

**Mentorship Program**

Grow your network, gain valuable insights, and expand your knowledge of Managed Care Pharmacy.

**WHAT?**  
We are continuing our Carolinas Mentorship program for 2025 to provide a conduit for growing membership through education and networking.

**WHY?**  
We want to build a strong network of Managed Care professionals, encourage AMCP and Carolina Affiliate membership, and educate on opportunities within Managed Care.

**WHEN?**  
Sign up November 2024.

Mentors and Mentees receive training and easy to follow instructions.

Program will run January – September 2025

**GET INVOLVED!**  
To sign up as a mentor or mentee scan here:

**The AMCP Carolinas Officers approved 10 Student Scholarships for 2025! There will be 5 for the AMCP National Meeting and 5 for the Nexus Meeting.**

**Interested Students: APPLY TODAY via the link below**

**AMCP Carolinas**

**CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Essentials**

- The Carolinas AMCP will be offering 5 individual \$1,500 scholarships for selected students to attend AMCP Annual in Houston TX March 31 - April 3 2025
- A completed application must be received by 11:59 PM (ET) on Wednesday, January 18th, 2025.

**Scan to Apply:**

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=\\_yqYY2z71kyXO3DkrPtj5vHwZOUIJohLtUnheSjDMU9UN0JfWk40U0845ENWMOVpQkhNUeFGovpQQiQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=_yqYY2z71kyXO3DkrPtj5vHwZOUIJohLtUnheSjDMU9UN0JfWk40U0845ENWMOVpQkhNUeFGovpQQiQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl)





### Leadership Session

The Carolinas AMCP Affiliate board hosted a leadership event on Wednesday afternoon, November 13th. This event was moderated by Dr. Que Parnell of Monumental Mentality for more than 20 invitees from each of the committees and selected members. The session was interactive and included lively discussion on how to be “Monumental Leaders”. Topics included key qualities of monumental leaders, how to communicate across generations in the workplace, personality assessments, and how pharmacists have the unique responsibility to make an impact across healthcare as a whole. In addition to many great takeaways from the discussion, attendees also received a copy of Dr. Parnell’s Monumental Mentality book and workbook. We are so grateful to Dr. Parnell for volunteering her time and sharing her expertise to help nurture future leaders of the Carolinas Affiliate!



### Networking Dinner

The Carolinas AMCP Affiliate knows how to network and enjoy their time! The Sponsors' Networking Dinner was a resounding success with sponsors, pharmaceutical industry professionals, as well as speakers and attendees from health systems/IDNs, health plans, PBMs, schools of pharmacy, consulting firms, & professional organizations. A bit of social networking was followed by a fantastic dinner and a fun game of “Get to know you” Bingo, where everyone mixed to find out more about each other and their work, complete with prizes!



### Day of Education

Planned and executed by the Carolinas Chapter’s Planning committee and led by Chairperson, Jimmy Zerr, Co-Chair, Erin Bostick, and Treasurer, Lydia Wang, the 3rd Annual Carolinas AMCP Day of Education took place on November 14, 2024, at the Hilton Charlotte University Place, attracting over 200 attendees from health systems/IDNs, health plans, PBMs, schools of pharmacy, consulting firms, professional organizations, and the pharmaceutical industry. This event provided a comprehensive platform for professionals in the managed care pharmacy sector to engage, learn, and share insights on critical industry topics.





## Carolinas Day of Education Recap (continued)

The day began with opportunity for attendees to connect over breakfast and set the stage for a day of learning and collaboration. The first session featured updates on the Carolinas AMCP Student and Mentorship Programs and highlighted the success of the 2024 Mentorship Program, which received a 4.7 out of 5 approval rating. The mentorship program will continue annually, reflecting its positive impact. AMCP WIN updates followed with sharing on progress and future plans to support and integrate female professionals within the managed care pharmacy community.

The President-Elect of the Carolinas AMCP affiliate, Ranarda Jones, kicked off the continuing education (CE) programming. She set the tone for the educational sessions with an overview of the day's agenda and learning objectives.

Suzanne Trautman and Jay Patel led a session on the future of managed care pharmacy. They discussed strategic initiatives and innovations that will shape the industry in the coming years, providing attendees with actionable insights and forward-thinking strategies.

The next session focused on modernizing utilization management. Joey Albright, Anna Bruckelmeyer, Amanda Kriebel, and Kira Warren explored the latest advancements in utilization management practices. They emphasized the importance of integrating new technologies and methodologies to improve efficiency and patient outcomes.

Prior to lunch and networking, Cheryl Anderson and Angela Smith presented updates on Medicaid programs in the Carolinas. They provided insights into policy changes, program enhancements, and future plans aimed at improving healthcare delivery and patient care within the Carolinas.

After lunch, AMCP national sponsored a 1-hour CE program on schizophrenia management through a managed care pharmacy lens, with local behavioral health insights provided by Vera Reinstein. The Carolinas Affiliate was specifically selected by AMCP to include this session in our Day of Education, highlighting the success of our Affiliate and the critical importance of this topic in pharmacy practice.

Ranarda Jones and Madhavi Manduru-Rao then rounded out the program by presenting Medicare updates, covering upcoming changes and their implications for managed care pharmacy. Their session offered critical insights into navigating the evolving Medicare landscape.

The 3rd Annual Carolinas AMCP Day of Education was a resounding success, offering a robust agenda that addressed the most pressing issues and advancements in managed care pharmacy. The event fostered a collaborative environment, enabling professionals to network, share knowledge, and gain insights that will drive the field forward.

The Planning Committee would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of our speakers, sponsors, committee members, and attendees for another successful event! We have already heard positive feedback about the Leadership Meeting, Networking dinner, and the Day of Education. **Will you be there next year?**





**News from South Carolina Department Health and Human Services (SCDHHS)**

MACE indication for Wegovy® was implemented retroactive to approval date, March 8, 2024. CMS approved a state plan amendment to allow SCDHHS to enter into value-based agreements (VBAs) on May 29, 2024.

On July 1, 2024, SCDHHS implemented a state-directed single preferred drug list (PDL) for all participating MCOs and the FFS Medicaid program. To decrease beneficiary and provider disruption, SCDHHS developed a continuity of care provision that enabled Healthy Connections Medicaid members to continue their current drug therapy regardless of PDL status or preferred brand name status. This continuity of care period will end Dec. 31, 2024. The single state-directed PDL can be accessed online here.

Pharmacists are continuing to enroll as medical health care providers through SCDHHS. Pharmacists can bill for their clinical services when evaluating oral contraception therapy. There are training materials on the SCDHHS website explaining the enrollment process and how to bill a medical claim for pharmacy reimbursement.

SCDHHS is continuing to provide a uniform state-directed payment to South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid-enrolled independent pharmacies when dispensing medications to Medicaid members enrolled in a managed care plan. Effective July 1, 2024, CMS approved for this state-directed payment to increase from \$6 to \$7 per dispensed prescription. Independent pharmacies receive a quarterly bulk payment based on the previous quarter's claim activity. This supplemental payment is to be made in addition to negotiated rate(s) between plan(s) and provider(s).

Starting Oct. 1, 2024, SCDHHS no longer covers OTC COVID-19 tests through the pharmacy benefit. Also, COVID-19 vaccines for Medicaid members under 19 will only be covered through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. COVID-19 vaccines for members 19 and older will still be covered under the pharmacy benefit along with FDA approved rebated outpatient treatments for COVID-19.

Starting Nov. 1, 2024, certain weight loss medications were added to the single PDL with prior authorization (PA) criteria. Wegovy® will be preferred and Saxenda® will be a nonpreferred agent on the single PDL. The PA criteria will include dietary counseling and specific BMI ranges along with comorbidities.

Also, effective Nov.1, 2024, sickle cell gene therapies, Casgevy® and Lyfgenia®, were added to the single PDL as preferred agents. These drugs will be covered under the pharmacy benefits through specialty pharmacies for Medicaid members regardless of whether they are enrolled in an MCO and FFS Medicaid.



**Meet our Medicaid Members**

(left) Angela Smith, Director of Pharmacy NCDHHS

(right) Cheryl A. Anderson, Director of Pharmacy SCDHHS

**Enhancing Access and Value: NC Medicaid's Commitment to Innovative Pharmacy Benefits**

NC Medicaid and the managed care health plans understand that prescription drugs play a significant role in the whole-person care of members. The dedicated team at NC Medicaid, within the Department of Health and Human Services, works tirelessly to ensure the pharmacy benefit is managed in a fiscally responsible manner. This approach ensures members have access to evidence-based, cost-effective medications, which provides the best overall value to beneficiaries, providers and the State of North Carolina.

At a recent AMCP Day of Education, Dr. Angela Smith, Director of Pharmacy and Ancillary Services, shared that over this past year, the pharmacy program focused their efforts on improving member access to medications, enhancing pharmacy provider reimbursement and modernizing claims processes. This includes the procurement of a new pharmacy benefit administrator (PBA), which will be implemented in the summer of 2026.

**Key Accomplishments**

NC Medicaid implemented copay waivers for medications used to treat HIV, opioid overdose, opioid use disorder, and nicotine replacement therapies. The over the counter (OTC) formulary was expanded to include coverage of OTC naloxone with a prescription, coverage of OTC Opill with or without a prescription, and coverage of condoms and spermicides with a prescription. Pharmacists are now allowed to enroll in NC Medicaid as providers, enabling pharmacies to be reimbursed when pharmacists utilize the State Protocols for Contraception and Smoking Cessation. Additionally, NC Medicaid added coverage of drugs for the treatment of obesity.

**Balancing Innovation and Affordability**

The team dedicates their time to understanding how to ensure access and affordability of novel treatments, such as cell and gene therapies. Dr. Smith highlighted that new drugs are continually entering the market, and the system is designed to maintain access to these therapies for Medicaid beneficiaries at an affordable price. This aligns with NC Medicaid's guiding principles of *whole-person care, better outcomes, access, fiscally responsible, and budget predictability*. Medicaid uses traditional levers such as:

- Single State Preferred Drug List (PDL) to drive utilization to the most cost-effective drugs.
- Clinical coverage criteria to ensure medical necessity.
- Value based contracts to reduce uncertainty regarding clinical value and performance of novel therapies.

**Looking Ahead**

NC Medicaid is delivering significant value to the State of North Carolina through the pharmacy benefit. Strategic management of the pharmacy benefit ensures North Carolinians have access to the prescriptions they need, at a minimal cost. Members have the opportunity to live healthier lives with an improved quality of life. These efforts contribute to creating healthier populations across the state, ultimately reducing long-term healthcare costs.





## Spotlight On Our Dedicated Committees

**Cathy Barber & Steven Burch**

### Student Affairs

2024 was a pivotal time for the student affairs committee. We assisted in **starting a student chapter** of AMCP at Campbell University, sent three students to **Student Pharmacy Programs** at Leo and Gilead, and awarded 10 scholarships for students to attend **AMCP Annual and Nexus**. I couldn't be prouder of the achievements of these outstanding students and look forward to the **bright future** they pave in the managed care pharmacy profession. - Cathy Barber



## Going Above and Beyond Award

Congratulations to Kevin for winning this award. Huge thank you for all of the support Kevin has shown the Carolinas AMCP Affiliate. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication. Congratulations!!



## Student Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to all our AMCP Nexus Student Scholarship winners. The future of pharmacy is bright!



## South Carolina Alliance of Health Plans Partnership





## AMCP Carolinas Partnerships with Campbell School of Pharmacy



Campbell began their AMCP Student Chapter Fall of 2024. We were able to coordinate a meeting with students on campus before one of our Managed Care Elective lectures in late September (Brenden-Diplomat, Ryan Swanson-Campbell grad, Debbie Hiller all from Blue Cross NC.) Campbell is hitting the ground running and planning to put forth a team for the P&T competition at annual.

## Carolinas AMCP Affiliate Launch

### 2 NEW PROGRAMS

### Speed Networking

All 7 schools educating new pharmacy students on the many opportunities for Managed Care Pharmacy

### New Pharmacy School Value Program

'NOT JUST ANOTHER CLUB'

#### Career Enhancement

- Career path development training
- Resume writing
- Interview skills
- Networking skills
- Managed Care elective
- Educational presentations templates and speakers

#### Professional Network

- Student internships and rotations
- Managed care job Board
- National P&T competition
- Student scholarships to attend national conferences
- Mentorships
- Networking events

#### AMCP Carolinas Advocates for You

- Pharmacy school strategy support using AMCP Diplomats alignment with faculty advisors
- Support marketing exposure (NC Career Center)

#### Join us!



## Women's Integration Network

### How to get involved!



#### Join Our Contact List

- [Linkedin.com/company/winamcp](https://www.linkedin.com/company/winamcp)
- [www.amcp.org/win](http://www.amcp.org/win)
- [win@amcp.org](mailto:win@amcp.org)



## Hold the DATES:



### Key dates:

- Early bird: Dec. 10-Jan. 7
- Advanced: Jan. 8-Feb 5
- Late Advanced/Onsite: Feb 7-April 3

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#### AMCP 2025

Connect with over 4,000 managed care pharmacy professionals from health plans, PBMs, pharma, and beyond. Gain valuable insights through cutting-edge education sessions, earn continuing education (CE) credits, and explore emerging trends and strategies. Registration opens for AMCP 2025 in Houston on Dec. 10 for AMCP members and Dec. 12 for non-members.

#### Key dates:

- Early bird: Dec. 10-Jan. 7
- Advanced: Jan. 8-Feb 5
- Late Advanced/Onsite: Feb 7-April 3
- Call for Session Proposals Submission Portal Open Aug. 19-Sept. 23, 2024.
- Call for Poster Abstracts Submission Portal Open Aug. 19-Oct. 31, 2024.

#### Stay and Save!

Registered attendees that book a hotel room in the AMCP hotel block will receive \$100 off of current applicable registration fees (not applicable for student members).

#### March 31-April 3, 2025

George R Brown Convention Center, Houston TX

## AMCP Nexus 2025

Event Type: National Meetings

Date: Oct. 27-30, 2025



## Thank you to all of our sponsors!

We truly appreciate all your support. The wonderful events, continuing education, and scholarship opportunities would not be possible without you!



## Welcome to our NEW Sponsors



## Comments from our sponsors!

“The Carolinas Day of Education sessions, sponsorship dinner, and leadership seminar were very valuable. Personally, I particularly enjoy meeting with students and engaging with like-minded pharmacists, managed care professionals, and industry representatives on improving patient care. The Affiliate also provides great value for me as a sponsor, offering networking opportunities that allow me to meet new customers, set up future meetings, and have meaningful conversations on how we can appropriately collaborate for the betterment of patients. While GSK supports AMCP at both national and regional levels, I find the Affiliate meetings, including the Day of Education, to be a highlight on my yearly calendar.” **GSK**

“We found the content timely/relevant, and the conference was well planned and organized. I very much appreciate the access to key decision makers willing to have an open conversation. I’m looking forward to the next event.” **Neurocrine**

“We just wanted to send a note regarding how much we appreciate the greater team’s efforts in putting together the Carolinas AMCP DOE last month in Charlotte. We were able to attend both the pre-event dinner, and then the main function the following day. We cannot say enough good things about the attendance and participation from the community that has come together. Just great conversations all around, and a very welcoming environment. We will continue to support the Carolinas AMCP affiliate in their good work and look forward to the next event.” **AMGEN**

## Connect with Us – We Want to Hear from YOU!



View our website at:  
[amcp.org/Carolinas-amcp](http://amcp.org/Carolinas-amcp)  
Email us at:  
[Carolinas@amcp.com](mailto:Carolinas@amcp.com)

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