The ACA was signed into law on March 2010 by president Obama, thus its popular nickname “Obamacare”, and its purpose is to implement health insurance reform and improve the quality of health care overall. The ACA affects every American in some way; the most important change is that it provides access to health insurance for everyone, no matter if you have a pre-existing condition, your insurance provider rescinded coverage after you became sick, or you are a small business owner. The law also expands the number of patients who can receive Medicare coverage and prescription drug discounts, provides funding for preventative care and more healthcare facilities, and gives incentives for physicians to join together to form Accountable Care Organizations to better coordinate healthcare for Medicare beneficiaries.

Many patients may be confused about what they hear in the media about the ACA; however, as pharmacists we can help educate them on the unique benefits and opportunities this law provides for them regarding care and health insurance. Moreover, we as pharmacists also have a great opportunity to help cut health care costs and reduce harm to patients by improving medication use processes. Pharmacists can and will no doubt play a major role in implementing the ACA over the coming years.

For more information, visit: http://www.ashp.org/menu/AboutUs/ForPress/PressReleases/PressRelease.aspx?id=703

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