



## **Home Medical Equipment Services Advisory Council Testimony July 30, 2024**

Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair Hillyer, and the members of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is Summer Corson and I serve as the Ohio Board of Pharmacy's Policy & Public Affairs Liaison and coordinator of the Home Medical Equipment Services Advisory Council.

The Home Medical Equipment Services Advisory Council advises the Board of Pharmacy on issues relating to the provision of home medical equipment services to Ohioans. It was created in 2018 when the responsibility for the regulation of such services was transferred from the Ohio Respiratory Care Board. The Council consists of 5 individuals appointed to terms of 3 years who are knowledgeable about the provision of home medical equipment services.

For context, home medical equipment<sup>1</sup> includes any of the following:

- Life-sustaining equipment prescribed by an authorized health care professional that mechanically sustains, restores, or supplants a vital bodily function, such as breathing (examples include ventilators, oxygen concentrators, etc.).
- Technologically sophisticated medical equipment prescribed by an authorized health care professional that requires individualized adjustment or regular maintenance by a home medical equipment services provider to maintain a patient's health care condition or the effectiveness of the equipment (examples include CPAP devices, feeding pumps, electric wheelchairs, etc.).
- An item specified by the Board in rules adopted under section 4752.17 of the Revised Code (examples include bone growth simulators, in-home patient lifts, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> Additional examples may be found here: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/HMEinfo](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/HMEinfo)

During the Council meetings, members and Board staff review HME-related inspection issues, discuss emerging topics, and review administrative rules. By discussing these items with stakeholders in the home medical equipment industry, we are giving them a seat at the table to review and discuss rules with us, which is important to both the Council members and the Board because it means we draft our regulations with home medical equipment service providers in mind. Currently, meetings occur at least once per year here in Columbus and members are not compensated for their participation; therefore, the budgetary impact for operating the Council is minimal.

Discussing this with stakeholders in the HME space, they see this council as valuable to them, and the Ohio Board of Pharmacy finds value in it as well. Regulating home medical equipment is still a relatively new responsibility for the Board so we would like this council to be maintained in statute. We find having HME experts able to give us their expertise on rules and emerging topics in their industry helps us regulate the industry more effectively.

In conclusion, the Board respectfully asks for the reauthorization of the Council, as it provides an important feedback mechanism between subject matter experts and regulators. Chair Wilkin and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.