

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information Contact:

Bill Lockwood

Executive Director

610-825-7783

October 10, 2009

ASAP Puts Dollar Value on Technology

The American Society for Automation in Pharmacy (ASAP) announces the results of a year-long analysis on the value of the technology used in pharmacy. The purpose was to show how the investment pharmacists make in computer systems, supporting databases, and related technology contribute to patient safety, medication compliance, and prevention of fraud and abuse. The organization determined that the technology used and costs incurred are overlooked in efforts to justify higher reimbursement from prescription drug plans.

Realizing that a pharmacy's prescription volume will determine the range of the technology deployed, the analysis used three prescription volume breakpoints. This found that the total technology cost for a pharmacy filling 100 to 200 prescriptions a day is \$0.57 per prescription, while the cost for a pharmacy filling 300 to 500+ a day is likely to be \$1.24 per prescription. The cost for a pharmacy in the 200-to-300 range would be \$0.91. The analysis did not attempt to allocate the cost to operational improvement in the pharmacy versus consumer benefits. This will be left to the user of the data to decide. Moreover, the costs do not reflect the total cost to fill a prescription, just the technology-related costs.

The vast majority of the technology-based products and services benefit patient safety. The analysis identified 21 technology-related systems and services that fell into the patient safety category. There were 8 in the medication compliance category and 12 in the preventing fraud and abuse category.

According to ASAP President Mark Sancrainte, R.Ph., "This analysis provides a compelling case for demonstrating pharmacy's use of technology and its many benefits to the consumer." National and state pharmacy associations are encouraged to use the analysis to put in perspective how pharmacy is contributing to a more efficient healthcare system, how the consumer is benefiting, and the investment pharmacy has made in technology to make this possible.