



# APhA

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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## 2021 House of Delegates *Report of the Policy Review Committee*

*Policies last reviewed ten years ago in 2010*

*Policies related to newly adopted policy from the 2020 APhA House of Delegates*

### **Committee Members**

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*This report is disseminated for consideration by the APhA House of Delegates and does not represent the position of the Association. Only those statements adopted by the House are considered official Association policy.*

## POLICY STATEMENTS TO BE RETAINED

### 1. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

#### **2004 Protecting the Integrity of the Medication Supply**

3. APhA supports public education about the risk of using medications whose production, distribution, or sale does not comply with U.S. federal and state laws and regulations.
4. APhA urges pharmacists and other health care professionals to report suspected counterfeit products to the Food and Drug Administration.

**Comments:** This item is included in both the RETAINING and ARCHIVING sections of this report. The Policy Review Committee recommends RETAINING statements #3 and #4 as the topics of education and reporting of suspected counterfeit products are still needed as active policy. The Policy Review Committee recommends ARCHIVING statements #1 and #2 as the committee believes this is now covered under newly adopted policy **2020 Protecting Pharmaceuticals as a Strategic Asset**. Items #1 and #2 are shown in the ARCHIVED section of this report. Items #3 and #4 are shown in the RETAINED section of this report.

### 2. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

#### **2004,1970 Licensure/Registration of Drug Manufacturers**

APhA supports the requirements that all drug manufacturers must obtain a federal license or registration, conditioned upon an inspection of the manufacturer's facilities, before manufacturing is begun.

### 3. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

#### **2011,2004,1995 Product Recall Policy**

1. APhA supports:
  - a) the use of contemporary communications technologies to enhance communication of recall information to all relevant parties,
  - b) developing and promoting strategies to identify and communicate with patients who may have received recalled products, when appropriate,
  - c) identifying compensation mechanisms for resources expended in responding to recalls, and
  - d) maintaining the FDA recall program, which ensures that appropriate promptness of action can be taken based on the depth and severity of the recall.

### 4. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

#### **2014 Controlled Substances and Other Medications with the Potential for Abuse and Use of Opioid Reversal Agents**

1. APhA supports education for pharmacists and student pharmacists to address issues of pain management, palliative care, appropriate use of opioid reversal agents in overdose, drug diversion, and substance-related and addictive disorders.
2. APhA supports recognition of pharmacists as the health care providers who must exercise professional judgment in the assessment of a patient's conditions to fulfill corresponding responsibility for the use of controlled substances and other medications with the potential for misuse, abuse, and/or diversion.

3. APhA supports pharmacists' access to and use of prescription monitoring programs to identify and prevent drug misuse, abuse, and/or diversion.
4. APhA supports the development and implementation of state and federal laws and regulations that permit pharmacists to furnish opioid reversal agents to prevent opioid-related deaths due to overdose.
5. APhA supports the pharmacist's role in selecting appropriate therapy and dosing and initiating and providing education about the proper use of opioid reversal agents to prevent opioid-related deaths due to overdose.

5. The Committee recommends **RETAINING** the following policy statement as written.

**2011 Pharmacist's Role in Health Care Reform**

1. APhA affirms that pharmacists are the medication experts whose accessibility uniquely positions them to increase access to and improve quality of health care while decreasing overall costs.
2. APhA asserts that pharmacists must be recognized as the essential and accountable patient care provider on the health care team responsible for optimizing outcomes through Medication Therapy Management (MTM).
3. APhA asserts the following:
  - (a) Medication Therapy Management Services: Definition and Program Criteria is the standard definition of MTM that must be recognized by all stakeholders
  - (b) Medication Therapy Management in Pharmacy Practice: Core Elements of an MTM Service Model, as adopted by the profession of pharmacy, shall serve as the foundational MTM service model.
4. APhA asserts that pharmacists must be included as essential patient care provider and compensated as such in every health care model, including but not limited to, the medical home and accountable care organizations.
5. APhA actively promotes the outcomes-based studies, pilot programs, demonstration projects, and other activities that document and reconfirm pharmacists' impact on patient health and well-being, process of care delivery, and overall health care costs.

6. The Committee recommends **RETAINING** the following policy statement as written.

**2009 Pharmacist's Role in Patient Safety**

1. It is APhA's position that patient safety initiatives must include pharmacists in leadership roles.
2. APhA encourages dissemination of best practices derived from nationally aggregated reporting data systems to pharmacists for the purpose of improving the medication use process and making informed decisions that directly impact patient safety and quality.
3. APhA encourages the profession of pharmacy to continually review and evaluate ways to enhance training, curricula, continuing education and accountability of pharmacists to improve patient safety.
4. APhA encourages risk management and post-marketing surveillance programs to be standardized and include infrastructures and compensation necessary to allow pharmacists to support these patient safety programs.
5. APhA supports the creation of voluntary, standardized and interoperable reporting systems for patient safety events to minimize barriers to pharmacist participation and to enable aggregation of data and improve quality of medication use systems. The system should be free, voluntary, non-punitive, easily accessible, and user friendly for all providers within the health care system.
6. APhA supports the elimination of hand-written prescriptions or medication orders.

7. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2002 Professional Practice Regulation**

1. APhA encourages the revision of pharmacy laws to assign the responsibility and accountability to the pharmacy license holder for the operations of the pharmacy, including but not limited to quality improvement, staffing, inventory, and financial activities. Further, APhA supports the responsibility and accountability of the pharmacist for dispensing of the pharmaceutical product and for the provision of pharmaceutical care services.
2. APhA encourages the pharmacy license holder to provide adequate resources and support for pharmacists to meet their professional responsibilities, and for pharmacists to utilize the resources and support appropriately and efficiently. APhA encourages state boards of pharmacy to hold pharmacy license holders accountable for failure to provide such adequate resources and support.

8. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**1991 Mission of Pharmacy**

APhA affirms that the mission of pharmacy is to serve society as the profession responsible for the appropriate use of medications, devices, and services to achieve optimal therapeutic outcomes.

Comments: This statement may need to be refreshed. This statement is broader than just APhA. Consideration of existing APhA mission/vision.

9. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**1994 Product Licensing Agreements and Restricted Distribution**

APhA opposes any manufacturer-provider relationship which involves product licensing agreements and/or restricted distribution arrangements which infringe on pharmacists' rights to provide pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical care to their patients

10. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**1978 Post-Marketing Requirements (Restricted Distribution)**

APhA opposes any legislation that would grant FDA authority to restrict the channels of drug distribution for any prescription drug as a condition for approval for marketing the drug under approved labeling.

11. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2004,1966 Distribution Programs: Circumvention of the Pharmacist**

APhA opposes distribution programs and policies by manufacturers, governmental agencies, and voluntary health groups which circumvent the pharmacist and promote the dispensing of prescription, legend drugs by non-pharmacists. These programs and policies should, in the public interest, be eliminated.

12. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2004,1968 Manufacturers’ Pricing Policies**

APhA supports pharmaceutical industry adoption of a “transparent pricing” system which would eliminate hidden discounts, free goods, and other subtle economic devices.

13. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**1985 Reduction of Federal Laws and Regulations (Paperwork Burden)**

APhA supports the reduction and simplification of laws, regulations, and record-keeping requirements which affect pharmacy practice and are not beneficial in protecting the public welfare.

14. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2017 Patient Access to Pharmacist-Prescribed Medications**

1. APhA asserts that pharmacists’ patient care services and related prescribing by pharmacists help improve patient access to care, patient outcomes, and community health, and they align with coordinated, team-based care.
2. APhA supports increased patient access to care through pharmacist prescriptive authority models.
3. APhA opposes requirements and restrictions that impede patient access to pharmacist-prescribed medications and related services.
4. APhA urges prescribing pharmacists to coordinate care with patients’ other health care providers through appropriate documentation, communication, and referral.
5. APhA advocates that medications and services associated with prescribing by pharmacists must be covered and compensated in the same manner as for other prescribers.
6. APhA supports the right of patients to receive pharmacist-prescribed medications at the pharmacy of their choice.

15. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2016 Point-of-Care Testing**

1. APhA recognizes the value of pharmacist-provided, point-of-care testing and related clinical services, and it promotes the provision of those tests and services in accordance with the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners Pharmacists’ Patient Care Process.
2. APhA advocates for laws, regulations, and policies that enable pharmacist-provided, point-of-care testing and related clinical services that are consistent with the pharmacists’ role in team-based care.
3. APhA opposes laws, regulations, and policies that create barriers to the tests that have been waived by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) and that are administered and interpreted by pharmacists.
4. APhA encourages use of educational programming and resources to facilitate practice implementation of pharmacist provided, point-of-care testing and related clinical services.
5. APhA supports patients taking active roles in the management of their health, including their ability to request and obtain pharmacist-provided, point-of-care tests and related clinical services.
6. APhA advocates for access to, coverage of, and payment for both pharmacist-provided, point-of-care tests and any related clinical services.

16. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2013,1978 Pharmacists Providing Health Care Services**

APhA supports the study and development of new methods and procedures whereby pharmacists can increase their ability and expand their opportunities to provide health care services to patients.

17. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2004,1978 Roles in Health Care for Pharmacists**

1. APhA shall develop and maintain new methods and procedures whereby pharmacists can increase their ability and expand their opportunities to provide health care services.
2. APhA supports legislative and judicial action that confirms pharmacists' professional rights to perform those functions consistent with APhA's definition of pharmacy practice and that are necessary to fulfill pharmacists' professional responsibilities to patients they serve.

18. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2017,2012 Contemporary Pharmacy Practice**

1. APhA asserts that pharmacists should have the authority and support to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and experience in delivering patient care in all practice settings and activities.
2. APhA supports continuing efforts toward establishing a consistent and accurate perception of the contemporary role and practice of pharmacists by the general public, patients, and all persons and institutions engaged in health care policy, administration, payment, and delivery.
3. APhA supports continued collaboration with stakeholders to facilitate adoption of standardized practice acts, appropriate related laws, and regulations that reflect contemporary pharmacy practice.
4. APhA supports the establishment of multistate pharmacist licensure agreements to address the evolving needs of the pharmacy profession and pharmacist-provided patient care.
5. APhA urges the continued development of consensus documents, in collaboration with medical associations and other stakeholders, that recognize and support pharmacists' roles in patient care as health care providers.
6. APhA urges universal recognition of pharmacists as health care providers and compensation based on the level of patient care provided using standardized and future health care payment models.

19. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2017 Pharmacists' Role Within Value-based Payment Models**

1. APhA supports value-based payment models that include pharmacists as essential health care team members and that promote coordinated care, improved health outcomes, and lower total costs of health care.
2. APhA encourages the development and implementation of meaningful, consistent process-based and outcomes-based quality measures that allow attribution of pharmacist impact within value-based payment models.
3. APhA advocates for mechanisms that recognize and compensate pharmacists for their contributions toward meeting goals of quality and total costs of care in value-based payment models, separate and distinct from the full product and dispensing cost reimbursement.

4. APhA advocates that pharmacists must have real-time access to and exchange of electronic health record data within value-based payment models in order to achieve optimal health and medication-related outcomes.
5. APhA supports education, training, and resources that help pharmacists transform and integrate their practices with value-based payment models and programs.

**20. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.**

**2019 Consolidation within Health Care**

1. APhA advocates that health care mergers and acquisitions must preserve the pharmacist–patient relationship.
2. APhA supports optimizing the role of pharmacists in the provision of team-based care following health care mergers and acquisitions in order to:
  - Enhance patient experience and safety,
  - Improve population health,
  - Reduce health care costs, and
  - Improve the work life of health care providers.
3. APhA asserts that the scope of review by federal agencies must have a focus on the impact of health care mergers and acquisitions on patient access and the provision of care to ensure optimal patient outcomes. Therefore, APhA calls for:
  - Reform of the pre–health care mergers and acquisitions process;
  - Implementation of an ongoing post–health care mergers and acquisitions evaluation process to preserve patient choice and access to established patient–pharmacist relationships; and
  - Continuous transparent dialogue among stakeholders throughout the process.
4. APhA calls for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to develop a task force to monitor health care mergers and acquisitions activity.

**21. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.**

**2016,1994 Pharmacy Services Benefits in Health Care Reform**

APhA supports reform of the U.S. health care system and believes that any reform at the state or national level must provide for the following

1. Universal coverage for pharmacy service benefits that include both medications and pharmacists' services;
2. Specific provisions for the access to and payment for pharmacists' patient care services.
3. A single set of pricing rules, eliminating class-of-trade distinctions, for medications, medication delivery systems, and other equipment so that no payer, patient, or provider is disadvantaged by cost shifting;
4. The right for every American to choose his/her own provider of medications and pharmacists' services and for all pharmacists to participate in the health plans of their choice under equally applied terms and conditions;
5. Quality assurance mechanisms to improve and substantiate the effectiveness of medications and health services;
6. Information and administrative systems designed to enhance patient care, eliminate needless bureaucracy, and provide patients and providers price and quality information needed to make informed patient-care decisions;
7. Relief from antitrust laws and regulations to enable pharmacists to establish systems that balance provider needs relative to corporate and governmental interests;

8. Reform in the professional liability system, including caps on non-economic damages, attorneys' fees, and other measures;
9. Representation on the controlling board of each plan by an active health care practitioner from each discipline within the scope of the plan; and
10. Recognition of the pharmacist's role in delivering primary health care services.

**22. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.**

**2013 Ensuring Access to Pharmacists' Services**

1. Pharmacists are health care providers who must be recognized and compensated by payers for their professional services.
2. APhA actively supports the adoption of standardized processes for the provision, documentation, and claims submission of pharmacists' services.
3. APhA supports pharmacists' ability to bill payers and be compensated for their services consistent with the processes of other health care providers.
4. APhA supports recognition by payers that compensable pharmacist services range from generalized to focused activities intended to improve health outcomes based on individual patient needs.
5. APhA advocates for the development and implementation of a standardized process for verification of pharmacists' credentials as a means to foster compensation for pharmacist services and reduce administrative redundancy.
6. APhA advocates for pharmacists' access and contribution to clinical and claims data to support treatment, payment, and health care operations.
7. APhA actively supports the integration of pharmacists' service level and outcome data with other health care provider and claims data.

**23. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.**

**2008 Billing and Documentation of Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Services**

1. APhA encourages the development and use of a system for billing of MTM services that:
  - (a) includes a standardized data set for transmission of billing claims;
  - (b) utilizes a standardized process that is consistent with claim billing by other healthcare providers;
  - (c) utilizes a billing platform that is accepted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
2. APhA supports the pharmacist's or pharmacy's choice of a documentation system that allows for transmission of any MTM billing claim and interfaces with the billing platform used by the insurer or payer.
3. APhA encourages pharmacists to use the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for billing of MTM services.
4. APhA supports efforts to further develop CPT codes for billing of pharmacists' services, through the work of the Pharmacist Services Technical Advisory Coalition (PSTAC) and Pharmacy HIT Collaborative.

**Comments:** The Policy Review Committee recommends Retaining these policy statements but recommends the addition of “and Pharmacy HIT Collaborative” after PSTAC in statement number 4 to reflect the transition of work transferred from the PSTAC into the work of the e-HIT Collaborative. The Pharmacy HIT Collaborative is the current organization where work regarding CPT codes and billing for pharmacist services is taking place.

24. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2017 Pharmacy Technician Education, Training, and Development**

1. APhA supports the following minimum requirements for all new pharmacy technicians:
  - a. Successful completion of an accredited or state-approved education and training program.
  - b. Certification by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)
2. APhA supports state board of pharmacy regulations that require pharmacy technicians to meet minimum standards of education, training, certification, and recertification. APhA encourages state boards of pharmacy to develop a phase-in process for current pharmacy technicians. APhA also encourages boards of pharmacy to delineate between pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists for the purposes of education, training, certification, and recertification.
3. APhA recognizes the important contribution and role of pharmacy technicians in assisting pharmacists and student pharmacists with the delivery of patient care.
4. APhA supports the development of resources and programs that promote the recruitment and retention of qualified pharmacy technicians.
5. APhA supports the development of continuing pharmacy education programs that enhance and support the continued professional development of pharmacy technicians.
6. APhA encourages the development of compensation models for pharmacy technicians that promote sustainable career opportunities.

25. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2018 Pharmacist Workplace Environment and Patient Safety**

1. APhA supports staffing models that promote safe provision of patient care services and access to medications.
2. APhA encourages the adoption of patient centered quality and performance measures that align with safe delivery of patient care services and opposes the setting and use of operational quotas or time-oriented metrics that negatively impact patient care and safety.
3. APhA denounces any policies or practices of third-party administrators, processors, and payers that contribute to a workplace environment, which negatively impacts patient safety. APhA calls upon public and private policy makers to establish provider payment policies that support the safe provision of medications and delivery of effective patient care.
4. APhA urges pharmacy practice employers to establish collaborative mechanisms that engage the pharmacist in charge of each practice, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy staff in addressing workplace issues that may have an impact on patient safety.
5. APhA urges employers to collaborate with the pharmacy staff to regularly and systematically examine and resolve workplace issues that may negatively have an impact on patient safety.
6. APhA opposes retaliation against pharmacy staff for reporting workplace issues that may negatively impact patient safety.

26. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2005,2003,1996 Pharmacists' Role in Immunizations**

1. APhA encourages pharmacists to take an active role in achieving the goals of the Healthy People program regarding immunizations through:
  - (a) advocacy,
  - (b) contracting with other health care professionals, or
  - (c) pharmacists administering vaccines to vulnerable patients.

2. APhA encourages the availability of all vaccines to all pharmacies in order to meet public health needs.
3. APhA supports the compensation of pharmacists for the administration of immunizations and the reimbursement for vaccine distribution.
4. APhA should facilitate the development of programs that educate pharmacists about their role in immunizations in public health.

27. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2011 Potential Conflicts of Interest in Pharmacy Practice**

1. APhA reaffirms that as health care professionals, pharmacists are expected to act in the best interest of patients when making clinical recommendations.
2. APhA supports pharmacists using evidence-based practices to guide decisions that lead to the delivery of optimal patient care.
3. APhA supports pharmacist development, adoption, and use of policies and procedures to manage potential conflicts of interest in practice.
4. APhA should develop core principles that guide pharmacists in developing and using policies and procedures for identifying and managing potential conflicts of interest.

28. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2019 Patient-Centered Care of People Who Inject Non-Medically Sanctioned Psychotropic or Psychoactive Substances**

1. APhA encourages state legislatures and boards of pharmacy to revise laws and regulations to support the patient-centered care of people who inject non-medically sanctioned psychotropic or psychoactive substances.
2. To reduce the consequences of stigma associated with injection drug use, APhA supports the expansion of interprofessional harm reduction education in the curriculum of schools and colleges of pharmacy, postgraduate training, and continuing professional development programs.
3. APhA encourages pharmacists to initiate, sustain, and integrate evidence-based harm reduction principles and programs into their practice to optimize the health of people who inject non-medically sanctioned psychotropic or psychoactive substances.
4. APhA supports pharmacists' roles to provide and promote consistent, unrestricted, and immediate access to evidence-based, mortality- and morbidity-reducing interventions to enhance the health of people who inject nonmedically sanctioned psychotropic or psychoactive substances and their communities, including: sterile syringes, needles, and other safe injection equipment, syringe disposal, fentanyl test strips, immunizations, condoms, wound care supplies, pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis medications for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), point-of-care testing for HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV), opioid overdose reversal medications, and medications for opioid use disorder.
5. APhA urges pharmacists to refer people who inject non-medically sanctioned psychotropic or psychoactive substances to specialists in mental health, infectious diseases, and addiction treatment; to housing, vocational, harm reduction, and recovery support services; and to overdose prevention sites and syringe service programs.

29. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2016 Medication-Assisted Treatment**

APhA supports expanding access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), including but not limited to pharmacist-administered injection services for treatment and maintenance of substance use disorders that are based on a valid prescription.

30. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2011 The Role and Contributions of the Pharmacist in Public Health**

In concert with the American Public Health Association's (APHA) 2006 policy statement, "The Role of the Pharmacist in Public Health," APhA encourages collaboration with APHA and other public health organizations to increase pharmacists' participation in initiatives designed to meet global, national, regional, state, local, and community health goals.

31. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**1983 Stocking a Complete Inventory of Pharmaceutical Product**

APhA supports the rights and responsibilities of individual pharmacists to determine their inventory and dispensing practices based on patient need, practice economics, practice security, and professional judgment.

32. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2005,1977 Government-Financed Reimbursement**

1. APhA supports only those government-operated or -financed, third-party prescription programs which ensures that participating pharmacists receive individualized, equitable compensation for professional services and reimbursement for products provided under the program.
2. APhA regards equitable compensation under any government-operated or -financed, third party prescription programs as requiring payments equivalent to a participating pharmacist's prevailing charges to the self-paying public for comparable services and products, plus additional, documented, direct and indirect costs which are generated by participation in the program.
3. APhA supports those government-operated or -financed, third-party prescription programs which base compensation for professional services on professional fees and reimbursement for products provided on actual cost, with the provision of a specific exception to this policy in those instances when equity in professional compensation cannot otherwise be attained.

33. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2005,1981 Third-party Reimbursement Legislation**

APhA supports enactment of legislation requiring that third-party program reimbursement to pharmacists be at least equal to the pharmacists prevailing charges to the self-paying public for comparable services and products, plus additional documented direct and indirect costs, which are generated by participating in the program.

34. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2005,1993 HIV Testing**

1. APhA opposes mandatory HIV testing of pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy personnel.
2. APhA supports voluntary and confidential HIV testing of pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy personnel, to facilitate early detection and disease intervention.
3. APhA supports training designed to foster compliance with infection control procedures outlined in current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for universal precautions and OSHA standards for blood-borne pathogens.
4. APhA encourages the development of support networks to assist HIV-positive health care professionals and students.

35. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2004,1990 Freedom to Choose**

1. APhA supports the patient's freedom to choose a provider of health care services and a provider's right to be offered participation in governmental or other third-party programs under equal terms and conditions.
2. APhA opposes government or other third-party programs that impose financial disincentives or penalties that inhibit the patient's freedom to choose a provider or health care services.
3. APhA supports that patients who must rely upon governmentally-financed or administered programs are entitled to the same high quality of pharmaceutical services as are provided to the population as a whole.

36. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2019 Pharmacist and Pharmacy Personnel Safety and Well-Being**

1. APhA calls for employers to develop policies and resources to support pharmacy personnel's ability to retreat or withdraw, without retaliation, from interactions that threaten their safety and well-being.
2. APhA encourages the development or utilization of educational programs and resources by the Association, employers, and other institutions to prepare pharmacy personnel to respond to situations that threaten their safety and well-being.

37. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.

**2016,2011,2002,1963 Role of the Pharmacist in National Defense**

APhA endorses the position that the pharmacist, as a member of the health care team, has the ethical responsibility to assume a role in disaster preparedness and emergency care operations. These responsibilities include:

1. Pharmacists, by their education and training as medication experts, should be involved intimately in all elements of the procurement, storage, handling, compounding, and dispensing of drugs and supplies in planning for as well as during any national emergency.
2. Pharmacists, by their education in anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology, are readily adaptable to assist in the emergency medical treatment of patients and for training the public in medical self-help.

3. Pharmacists, by their constant contact with the members of the health team, as well as a significant portion of their communities, provide the potential for coordinating preparedness measures, and establishing meaningful standby emergency operational plans.

In view of these responsibilities, it shall be the further policy of APhA:

1. To cooperate with all responsible agencies and departments of the federal government.
2. To provide leadership and guidance for the profession of pharmacy by properly assuming its role with other health profession organizations at the national level (e.g., American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, American Dental Association, American Nurses Association, and American Veterinary Medical Association).
3. To assist and cooperate with all national specialty pharmaceutical organizations to provide assistance and coordination in civil defense matters relevant to their area of concern.
4. To encourage and assist the state and local pharmacy associations in their efforts to cooperate with the state and local governments as well as the state and local health profession organizations in order that the pharmacist may assume his proper place in civil defense operations.
5. To provide leadership and guidance so that individual pharmacists can contribute their services to civil defense and disaster planning, training, and operations in a manner consistent with their position as a member of the health team.

**38. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.**

#### **2015 Disaster Preparedness**

APhA encourages pharmacist involvement in surveillance, mitigation, preparedness, planning, response, and recovery related to terrorism and infectious diseases.

**39. The Committee recommends RETAINING the following policy statement as written.**

#### **1979 Dispensing and/or Administration of Legend Drugs in Emergency Situations**

1. APhA supports making insect sting kits and other, life-saving, emergency, treatment kits available for lawful dispensing by pharmacists without a prescription order, based on the pharmacist's professional judgment.
2. APhA supports permitting pharmacists to lawfully dispense and administer legend drugs in emergency situations, without an order from a licensed prescriber, provided that: (a) There is an assessment on the part of the pharmacist and the patient that the drug is needed immediately to preserve the well-being of the patient, and; (b) The normal legal means for obtaining authorization to dispense the drug must not be immediately available, such as in cases where the patient's physician is not available, and; (c) The quantity of the drug, which can be dispensed in an emergency situation, is enough so that the emergency situation can subside, and the patient can be sustained for the immediate emergency, as determined by the pharmacist's professional judgment.
3. APhA supports expansion of state Good Samaritan Acts to provide pharmacists immunity from professional liability for dispensing in emergency situations without order from a licensed prescriber.
4. APhA supports permitting pharmacists to lawfully dispense and/or administer legend drugs without an order from a licensed prescriber during disaster situation.

40. The Committee recommends **RETAINING** the following policy statement as written.

**2012 Drug Supply Shortages and Patient Care**

1. APhA supports the immediate reporting by manufacturers to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of disruptions that may impact the market supply of medically necessary drug products to prevent, mitigate, or resolve drug shortage issues and supports the authority for FDA to impose penalties for failing to report.
2. APhA supports revising current laws and regulations that restrict the FDA's ability to provide timely communication to pharmacists, other health care providers, health systems, and professional associations regarding potential or real drug shortages.
3. APhA encourages the FDA, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and other stakeholders to collaborate in order to minimize barriers (e.g., aggregate production quotas, annual assessment of needs, unapproved drug initiatives) that contribute to or exacerbate drug shortages.
4. APhA should actively support legislation to hasten the development of an efficient regulatory process to approve therapeutically equivalent generic versions of biologic drug products.
5. APhA encourages pharmacists and other health care providers to assist in maintaining continuity of care during drug shortage situations by: (a) creating a practice site drug shortage plan as well as policies and procedures, (b) using reputable drug shortage management and information resources in decision making, (c) communicating with patients and coordinating with other health care providers, (d) avoiding excessive ordering and stockpiling of drugs, (e) acquiring drugs from reputable distributors, and (f) heightening their awareness of the potential for counterfeit or adulterated drugs entering the drug distribution system.
6. APhA encourages accrediting and regulatory agencies and the pharmaceutical science and manufacturing communities to evaluate policies/procedures related to the establishment and use of drug expiration dates and any impact those policies/procedures may have on drug shortages.
7. APhA encourages the active investigation and appropriate prosecution of entities that engage in price gouging and profiteering of medically necessary drug products in response to drug shortages.

## POLICY STATEMENTS TO BE ARCHIVED

41. The Committee recommends ARCHIVING the following policy statement as written.

### **2004 Protecting the Integrity of the Medication Supply**

1. APhA encourages pharmacists to enhance their role in protecting the integrity of the medication supply, including careful consideration of the source and distribution pathways of the medications they dispense.
2. APhA recommends that all individuals and entities of the pharmaceutical supply system, including manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacies, pharmacists, and others, adopt appropriate technology, tracking mechanisms, business practices, and other initiatives to protect the integrity of the drug supply.

**Comments:** This item is included in both the RETAINING and ARCHIVING sections of this report. The Policy Review Committee recommends ARCHIVING statements #1 and #2 as the committee believes this is now covered under newly adopted policy **2020 Protecting Pharmaceuticals as a Strategic Asset**. The Policy Review Committee recommends RETAINING statements #3 and #4 as the topics of education and reporting of suspected counterfeit products are still needed as active policy. Items #1 and #2 are shown in the ARCHIVED section of this report. Items #3 and #4 are shown in the RETAINED section of this report.

42. The Committee recommends ARCHIVING the following policy statement as written.

### **1985 Pharmaceutical Pricing**

APhA supports a system of equal opportunity with the same terms, conditions, and prices available for all pharmacies.

**Comments:** The Policy Review Committee recommends ARCHIVING this policy statement. The committee believes the policy as currently written is incredibly broad and not contemporary with current pharmacy practice.