



To be completed by the Office of the Secretary of the House of Delegates

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American Pharmacists Association
House of Delegates – San Francisco, CA

NEW BUSINESS

(To be submitted and introduced by Delegates only)

Introduced by: CDR Heather D. Hellwig, USN
(Name)

2/21/2017
(Date)

U.S. Navy
(Organization)

Subject: Drug Disposal

Motion: Move to adopt the following policy statement,

- 1. APhA urges pharmacists to expand patient access to secure, convenient, and ecologically responsible drug disposal options, in accordance with the Drug Disposal Act, by implementing disposal programs they deem appropriate for their individual practice sites, patient care settings, and business models in order to reduce the amount of dispensed but unused prescription drug product available for diversion and misuse.

Background:

The National Survey of Drug Use and Health 2010¹ concluded that friends and family are the primary sources of abused opioids. This study reported 55% of persons who reported non-medical use of pain relievers obtained their supply from a family member or friend. The Drug Enforcement Agency has hosted biannual Drug Take-Back events with spurious success. The Drug Disposal Act of 2010 amended the Controlled Substance Act to allow a subset of DEA pharmacy registrants to voluntarily register as authorized collection sites to increase access to secure and convenient disposal locations. Since then, numerous drug disposal options in addition to pharmacy-based receptacles have been made commercially available to end users including, but not limited to, reverse distribution mailing envelopes and drug deactivation and disposal pouches. APhA has endorsed the safe handling and disposal of medication, shared responsibility for the costs of implementing disposal programs, and pharmacists’ role in planning and coordinating disposal programs via previous policy statements. However, the profession has never endorsed a statement of the specific role of pharmacists in offering access to disposal programs, nor the specific types of programs that could be offered. To fill this void, some state officials have asked pharmacies to assist in the prevention and treatment of the opioid addiction crisis specifically by registering as collection sites and installing drug take-back receptacles.² APhA is in a position to endorse the adoption of policy that advocates for pharmacies to develop and implement programs that best fit their specific environment from a variety of responsible disposal options aimed at increasing patient access to such services. The longer that APhA waits to endorse a variety of

intervention options supported by its own members, the more likely that additional requests and eventual mandates for the implementation of specific options will be submitted from outside the profession.

References:

1. United States Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2010. ICPSR32722-v6. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2015-11-23.
2. December 28, 2016 letter from Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Gary Tennis to Pennsylvania Pharmacists.

Current APhA Policy & Bylaws:

2013 Medication Take-Back/Disposal Programs

1. APhA encourages pharmacist involvement in the planning and coordination of medication take-back programs for the purpose of disposal.
2. APhA supports increasing public awareness regarding medication take-back programs for the purpose of disposal.
3. APhA urges public and private stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies, to coordinate and create uniform, standardized regulations, including issues related to liability and sustainable funding sources, for the proper and safe disposal of unused medications.
4. APhA recommends ongoing medication take-back and disposal programs.

(JAPhA 53(4): 365 July/August 2013)

2009 Medication Disposal

1. APhA encourages appropriate public and private partnerships to accept responsibility for the costs of implementing safe medication disposal programs for consumers. Furthermore, APhA urges DEA to permit the safe disposal of controlled substances by consumers.
2. APhA encourages provision of patient-appropriate quantities of medication supplies to minimize unused medications and unnecessary medication disposal.

(JAPhA NS49(4):493 July/August 2009)(Reviewed 2012)(Reviewed 2013)

1990 Proper Handling & Disposal of Hazardous Pharmaceuticals & Associated Supplies & Materials

1. APhA supports the proper handling and disposal of hazardous, pharmaceutical products and associated supplies and materials by health professionals and by patients to whom such products, supplies, and materials are provided.
2. APhA supports involvement with representatives from other health professional organizations, industry, and government to develop recommendations for the proper handling and disposal of hazardous pharmaceuticals and associated supplies and materials.
3. APhA supports the development of educational programs for health professionals and patients on the proper handling and disposal of hazardous pharmaceuticals and associated supplies and materials.

(Am Pharm NS30(6):45 June 1990) (Reviewed 2004) (Reviewed 2007)(Reviewed 2012)

****Phone numbers will only be used by the New Business Review Committee in case there are questions for the delegate who submitted the New Business Item Content.**

New Business Items are due to the Speaker of the House by **February 22, 2017** (30 days prior to the start of the first House session). Consideration of urgent items can be presented with a suspension of the House Rules at the session where New Business will be acted upon. Please submit New Business Items to the Speaker of the House via email at hod@aphanet.org.