

**Actions of the 2022 American Pharmacists Association House of Delegates
San Antonio, Texas
March 18 – 21, 2022**

Newly Adopted Policy Statements

The following policies originated from the 2021–22 Policy Committee, were reviewed by the 2021–22 Policy Reference Committee, and were adopted via a consent agenda process by the 2022 APhA House of Delegates. These statements are now official APhA policy.

Standard of Care Regulatory Model for State Pharmacy Practice Acts

1. APhA requests that state boards of pharmacy and legislative bodies regulate pharmacy practice using a standard of care regulatory model similar to other health professions' regulatory models, thereby allowing pharmacists to practice at the level consistent with their individual education, training, experience, and practice setting.
2. To support implementation of a standard of care regulatory model, APhA reaffirms 2002 policy that encourages states to provide pharmacy boards with the following: (a) adequate resources; (b) independent authority, including autonomy from other agencies; and (c) assistance in meeting their mission to protect the public health and safety of consumers.
3. APhA encourages NABP as well as state and national pharmacy associations to support and collaborate with state boards of pharmacy in adopting and implementing a standard of care regulatory model.
4. APhA and other pharmacy stakeholders should provide educational programs, information, and resources regarding the standard of care regulatory model and its impact on pharmacy practice.

Data Security in Pharmacy Practice

1. APhA advocates that all organizations and healthcare providers adopt best practices in data security to ensure ongoing protection of patient data from loss, alteration, and all forms of cybercrime.
2. APhA recommends that organizations understand the flow of information, both internally and externally, to apply and maintain reasonable and appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the privacy and identity of their patients.
3. APhA calls on organizations to provide ongoing employee education and training regarding patient data protection, best practices, and cybersecurity standards.

Data Use and Access Rights in Pharmacy Practice

1. APhA supports organization and patient care provider rights to use patient data for improvement of patient and public health outcomes and enhancement of patient care delivery processes in accordance with ethical practices and industry standards regarding data privacy and transparency.
2. APhA urges ongoing transparent, accessible, and comprehensible disclosure to patients by all HIPAA-covered and noncovered entities as to how personally identifiable information may be utilized.
3. APhA calls for all entities with access to patient health data, including those with digital applications, to be required to adhere to established standards for patient data use.
4. APhA supports the right of patients to have full and timely access to their personal health data from all entities.

The following policies originating from submitted new business items and reviewed by the 2021–22 New Business Review Committee were adopted by the 2022 APhA House of Delegates and are now official APhA policy.

2018 Integration of a National Immunization Information System (IIS) (amends existing policy language in Statement 3 of this policy topic)

3. APhA calls for a National Immunization Information System (IIS) to receive and report vaccination data from all registries for the purpose of providing health care professionals, patients, and their caregivers with accurate and timely information to assist in clinical decision-making.

Access and Reimbursement for Diabetes Education, Support, and Prevention Services

1. APhA supports the expansion of patient access to diabetes education, support, and prevention, including but not limited to the National Diabetes Prevention Program or DSMES.
2. APhA calls upon public and private payers to expand reimbursement for pharmacist-based services as providers of diabetes education, support, and prevention regardless of practice setting.
3. APhA advocates for campaigns focused on increased community wellness awareness and health benefits for diabetes education, support, and prevention.

Data to Advance Health Equity

1. APhA urges pharmacists to use patient-specific data and social determinants of health to address health inequities and drive decision-making in practice and advocacy.

Procurement Strategies and Patient Steerage

1. APhA opposes mandated procurement strategies that restrict patients' and providers' ability to choose treatment options and that compromise patient safety and quality of care.
2. APhA calls for procurement strategies and care models that lower total costs, do not restrict or delay care, and ensure continuity of care.

Pharmacists Prescribing Authority and Increasing Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorders

1. APhA advocates for pharmacists' independent prescriptive authority of medications indicated for opioid use disorders (MOUDs) and other substance use disorders to expand patient access to treatment.

2007 Pharmacy Personnel Immunization Rates (amends existing policy language in Statement 3 of this policy topic)

3. APhA encourages federal, state, and local officials and agencies to recognize pharmacists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy support staff as among the highest priority groups to receive medications, vaccinations, and other protective measures as essential healthcare workers.

Pharmacists' Application of Professional Judgment

1. APhA supports pharmacists, as licensed health care professionals, in their use of professional judgment throughout the course of their practice to act in the best interest of patients.
2. APhA asserts that a pharmacist's independent medication review and use of professional judgment in the medication distribution process is essential to patient safety.
3. APhA opposes state and federal laws that limit a pharmacist's responsibility to exercise professional judgment in the best interest of patients.
4. APhA calls for civil, criminal, and professional liability protections for pharmacists and pharmacies if the pharmacist's responsibility to use professional judgment is limited by state or federal laws.

Addressing American Medical Association's Policy Related to Pharmacists Scope of Practice

1. APhA opposes policies, practices, and statements by the American Medical Association (AMA) and other professional organizations that impede interprofessional care, patient access to pharmacist-provided care, and health equity.
2. APhA calls on the American Medical Association (AMA) to rescind its policies opposing expanded scopes of practice for pharmacists.
3. APhA adamantly supports the continuation and expansion of collaborative patient care models among pharmacists, physicians, and other healthcare professionals to improve patient access to care, health equity, and health outcomes.

The following proposed policy statements were referred to the APhA Board of Trustees for further review. These statements are not official APhA policy, and future action on these items will be determined by the APhA Board of Trustees.

Data to Advance Health Equity

APhA supports the collection, analysis, reporting, and exchange of disaggregated data regarding race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, and social determinants of health in partnership with the impacted communities.

Procurement Strategies and Patient Steerage

APhA supports medication procurement strategies that meet chain of custody standards for pharmaceutical products moving from one entity to another; ensure the exchanges are accurate, timely, and follow best practices prior to administering the product to the patient; and preserve the economic viability of pharmacy practices.

Supporting the Integration of Pharmacists into the Clinical Research Workforce

1. APhA supports the integration of pharmacists as clinical research team members in all forms of clinical research, including but not limited to healthcare outcomes research, premarketing clinical trials, and postmarketing studies.
2. APhA encourages pharmacists and student pharmacists to build clinical research enterprise knowledge and specialized skills.

APhA House Rules Review Process

The APhA House of Delegates adopted the report of the 2021-2022 APhA House Rules Review Committee, as presented. The following recommendations, guidance, and modifications to the APhA House Rules of Procedure and operations were approved (approved additions are underlined and deletions are ~~struck through~~.)

Recommendations to the APhA House of Delegates

- Review of Fall Virtual House
 - The Committee discussed the importance of conducting a Fall Virtual House session to complete “procedural” aspects of the House, allow Delegates to receive an interim update from the Speaker of the House outside of the annual update during the March House sessions, and allow for the opportunity to complete any unfinished or referred business from the March House sessions.
 - Additionally, the timing of the Fall Virtual House was reviewed, and the Committee acknowledged that it may be difficult for practicing pharmacists to take time from work to attend an afternoon session on a Friday afternoon. The Committee encourages APhA staff to consider a different day or a different time for future Virtual House Sessions.
 - The Committee also noted one additional process to modify for Virtual House sessions regarding “calling the question”. In order to mirror an in-person House session as closely as possible, the Speaker should identify the specific delegate that wishes to “call the question” if the name of this delegate is not otherwise visible to the rest of the delegates.
- Policy Review Committee
 - The Committee discussed the charges and scope of the Policy Review Committee at length throughout the year and specifically during both calls following the November 5, 2021, Virtual House session.
 - The Committee agreed that the Policy Review Committee should retain the ability to update and amend policies to ensure active policy does not become outdated and to provide a structured way to bring policies up to date outside of the existing New Business Item process.
 - Proposed modifications to Rule 6 and Rule 14 of the existing House Rules of Procedure are recommended by the Committee to achieve a balance of Committee authority to amend with oversight by Delegates.
 - The Committee agreed that the process of handling the majority of the report recommendations including retain, rescind, and archive should be maintained.

This process would still allow any Delegate to pull out any of these items for individual debate and vote, as needed.

- The Committee recommends that the Policy Review Committee presents any recommendation to amend a statement as a separate and individual motion. This is to ensure that these recommendations to amend are clear and Delegates know exactly what is being proposed. Transparency was a critical part of the Committee's discussion, and it should be very clear to Delegates as to what amendments to existing policy are up for debate and vote. This change will require a modification to Rule 14 of the existing APhA House Rules of Procedures and that modification is outlined within this report.
- The Committee recommends additional modifications to Rule 6 and Rule 14 of the APhA House Rules of Procedures that will allow the Policy Review Committee to propose an amendment to existing policy that may go beyond the original intent of the policy. The Committee recommends this proposed change in tandem with additional guidance for development of the Policy Review Committee's report.
 - As noted earlier in this report the Committee recommends that any recommendation to amend is handled as a separate motion to allow for necessary review and debate by Delegates.
 - The Policy Review Committee will need to provide detailed background information to justify any change.
 - The Policy Review Committee will continue to host open forum webinars and will have the ability to change their recommendations following feedback received from these open forum webinars prior to debate of their report during a House session. This addition will mirror the process used by the Policy Reference Committee and the New Business Review Committee and ensure Delegates have the opportunity to provide actionable feedback on the Policy Review Committee's report and recommendations.
- The Committee proposes these recommendations to allow for more transparency in the work of the Policy Review Committee, provide wider input from Delegates, and allow for more meaningful review and debate by Delegates prior to a vote within a House session.

- Use of a Poll to Accomplish House Business
 - The Committee noted their recommendations on the use of a ballot or poll were approved as presented within their November 5, 2021, Committee report. Furthermore, the Committee wishes to clarify that additional observation and collection of feedback on this process will be essential prior to drafting any formal proposed House Rules on this process.
 - The Committee had additional discussion around the name of the process to ensure it was clear that the action was not final and therefore has requested this be called a poll. APhA staff should provide clear instruction that the results of this poll lead into development of a consent agenda or a consent calendar that will have final action taken by the House during the March House session.
 - The Committee recommends a poll process to be used in preparation for the March 2022 House sessions. Content for this poll would only include the Policy Reference Committee's recommendations following the January open forum webinars on the proposed policy statements.
 - In future years, additional committee recommendations could be added into this polling process.

Modifications to the APhA House Rules of Procedure

Rule 6 Consideration of Committee Reports

The order for consideration of Committee Reports and recommendations in any House of Delegates session agenda shall be determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Secretary of the House. The House shall receive any Committee Reports prior to Committee open forums or webinars and any session where debate on a Committee Report would occur. The Policy Reference Committee, Policy Review Committee, and New Business Review Committee shall consider delegate input received through open forums, webinars, and other communication means and will develop recommendations for consideration by the House on each whole-numbered statement or recommendation. During House sessions, the Committee chair will recommend adoption of policy statements and recommendations and preside over the debate. Action on the report will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order (current edition).

Rule 14 Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee shall consist of 7–10 delegates, including the Chair, and are appointed by the Speaker. The Committee members should be present for open forum sessions held in person or virtually. The Policy Review Committee shall meet annually and review any

policy that has (1) not been reviewed or revised in the past 10 years; (2) policy related to statements adopted in the most recent House session; and (3) if applicable, contemporary issues identified by the Speaker. The House shall receive and consider the recommendations of the House Policy Review Committee to archive, rescind, retain, or amend existing policy. A singular motion to archive, rescind, ~~or retain, or amend~~ all such existing policy, with limited debate, shall be in order. Items identified by the Policy Review Committee as needing ~~amendment shall be reviewed by the Committee and Speaker of the House to determine that the amendment does not change the intent of the original policy and included in a separate section of the Policy Review Committee report provided to delegates. any substantive amendments will be introduced as separate motions for consideration or those that change the intent of the original policy should be submitted by the Policy Review Committee to the New Business Review Committee for consideration.~~ If the Policy Review Committee Report is considered in a virtual House of Delegates session, the debate will be time limited. At the Speaker's discretion, recommendations of the Policy Review Committee may be referred to the next House session for further deliberation.