2008 Actions
of the
APhA House of Delegates
San Diego, CA
March 14-17, 2008

The following policies were adopted by the 2008 APhA House of Delegates and are now official Association policy:

<u>Experiential Education</u>

1. APhA urges state boards of pharmacy, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and other professional associations; employers, and other stakeholders to collaborate in the development of a blueprint that evaluates, streamlines, and consolidates all student pharmacists' experiential education requirements.

2. APhA encourages the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), in collaboration with state boards of pharmacy, practitioner organizations and other stakeholders, to develop national standardization among schools and colleges of pharmacy to improve the quality of student pharmacists' experiential education. This standardization should be adopted by all schools and colleges of pharmacy and should include:

   a. A preceptor training program
   b. A model instrument for preceptors to evaluate student pharmacist performance in required pharmacy practice experiences
   c. A set of quality indicators for each required pharmacy practice experience
   d. A report of quality indicator outcomes made available to all schools and colleges of pharmacy, faculty, and current and prospective students.

3. APhA urges schools and colleges of pharmacy to dedicate adequate and equitable financial and human resources to experiential education.

Residency Training for Pharmacists

1. APhA urges continued growth in the number of accredited pharmacy residency positions in all practice settings to better meet the future health care needs of our nation.

2, APhA advocates for the allocation of adequate funding for accredited pharmacy residencies in all practice settings by governmental and other entities**.**

3. APhA supports post-graduate training for new PharmD graduates.

Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation

1. APhA reaffirms the 1992 Compounding Activities of Pharmacists policy, which states that APhA affirms that compounding pursuant to or in anticipation of a prescription or diagnostic preparation order is an essential part of health care that is the prerogative of the pharmacist.
2. APhA supports compounding as defined by the Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board (PCAB) as a means to meet patient drug therapy needs.

3. APhA opposes compounding when identical medications are commercially and readily available in strength and dosage form to meet patient drug therapy needs.

4. APhA asserts that compounding is subject to regulations and oversight from state boards of pharmacy. APhA urges state boards of pharmacy to identify and take appropriate action against entities who are illegally manufacturing medications under the guise of compounding.

5. APhA supports accreditation of compounding sites by PCAB to ensure patient safety. APhA encourages state boards of pharmacy to recommend accreditation for those sites that engage in more than basic non sterile compounding as defined by PCAB.

6. APhA supports the development of education, training and recognition programs that enhance pharmacist and student pharmacist knowledge and skills to engage in compounding beyond basic, non sterile preparations as defined by PCAB.

7. APhA encourages the exploration of a specialty certification in the area of compounding through the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS).

Pharmacy Technician Education and Training

1. APhA reaffirms the 2005/2001/1996 Control of Distribution System policy which states that APhA supports pharmacists' authority to control the distribution process and personnel involved and the responsibility for all completed medication orders, regardless of practice setting.

2. APhA supports nationally recognized standards and guidelines for the accreditation of pharmacy technician education and training programs.

3. APhA supports the continued growth of accredited education and training programs that develop qualified pharmacy technicians who will support pharmacists in ensuring patient safety and enhancing patient care.

4. APhA supports the following minimum requirements for all new pharmacy technicians by the year 2015:
    a. Successful completion of an accredited education and training program
    b. Certification by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB).

5. APhA supports state board of pharmacy regulation that requires pharmacy technicians to meet minimum standards of education, training, and certification. APhA also encourages state boards of pharmacy to develop a phase-in process for current pharmacy technicians.

Adopted New Business Items

The following Items of New Business were adopted by the 2008 APhA House of Delegates and are now official Association policy:

New Business Item #1 – 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).

New Business Item #2 – Pharmacy Practice-based Research Networks -

1. APhA supports establishment of pharmacy practice-based research networks (PBRNs) to strengthen the evidence base in support of MTM and pharmacy primary care services.
2. APhA encourages collaborations among stakeholders to determine the minimal infrastructure and resources needed to develop and implement local, regional and nationwide networks for performing pharmacy practice-based research.
3. APhA encourages pharmacy residency programs to actively participate in pharmacy practice-based research networks.

New Business Item #6 – Internet Access by Pharmacists

APhA supports ready access to Internet resources by pharmacists at their practice site, to facilitate delivery of patient care and support professional development.

New Business Item #7 – Re-use of devices intended for "Single-Use"

APhA opposes the reuse of devices intended for "single use" in the diagnosis and treatment of patients consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.

Referred Items

The following Item of New Business was considered by the House and referred. It is not official APhA policy.

The APhA House of Delegates referred New Business Item #4 to the APhA Board of Trustees. The language is as originally submitted:

APhA advocacy efforts related to Medicare Part D and Part B should include the need for adequate funding for all Medicare programs.

Policy Review Process

As part of the continuing review of existing policy, the House amended, archived, and rescinded existing policy on a range of topics.

The House amended the following statement:

1987 *Sale of Home-use Diagnostic and Monitoring Products*

1. APhA recognizes the need to protect the health of the American people through proper instruction in the safe and effective use of the more complex home-use~~, in vitro~~ diagnostic and monitoring products ~~(IVDs)~~.
2. APhA recognizes that the pharmacist is a widely available and qualified health professional to advise patients in the use of the more complex home-use~~, in vitro~~ diagnostic and monitoring products ~~(IVDs)~~.

(Am Pharm NS27(6):424 June 1987) (Reviewed 2003)

The House amended the Policy Review Committee's report regarding the following statement:

2001 Regulatory Compliance/Regulatory Burden

To *ARCHIVE* the statement "APhA, in conjunction with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other appropriate regulators, shall educate employers and employee groups and the public about applicable regulations."

2001 Regulatory Compliance/Regulatory Burden

To *RETAIN* the statement "APhA supports measures that protect the patient, public and employees from pharmacy conditions that pose a threat to health."

The House also retained and archived statements on a range of issues. A compilation of 2008 retained and archived policy is available upon request to the APhA Speaker **of the House at hod@aphanet.org.**

APhA House Rules Review Committee

The APhA House of Delegates adopted the report of the APhA House Rules Review Committee making modifications to its operations. The Report is posted at www.pharmacist.org/hod and is also available upon request to the APhA Speaker of the House, hod@aphanet.org.

The next meeting of the APhA House of Delegates will be held in conjunction with APhA2009, Apri1 3 and 6, 2009, in San Antonio, Texas. Periodic reports concerning the action of the 2008 APhA House and information on the 2009 session will be posted at www.pharmacist.org/hod.