

NEW BUSINESS

(To be submitted and introduced by Delegates only)

Introduced by: Richard Dang
(Name)
February 19, 2020 California Pharmacists Association (CPhA)
(Date) (Organization)

Subject: Digital Health Integration in Pharmacy

Motion: To adopt the following new policy statements on digital health integration in pharmacy:

1. APhA supports education about digital health technologies and integration in pharmacy practice, in pharmacy school curricula, and for the pharmacy workforce.
2. APhA supports inclusion of pharmacists in the design and development of digital health technologies.
3. APhA supports that digital health technologies be interoperable with and integrated into pharmacy management systems and electronic health records.
4. APhA supports pharmacists applying digital health technologies to optimize patient care outcomes.

Background:

Digital health is an umbrella term that encompasses a wide range of products at the intersection of health and technology for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of health and diseases. Digital health category examples include: mobile health apps, health information technology (HIT), sensor-enabled medication (pills, inhalers, insulin pens), wearables, devices, digital therapeutics (evidence-based therapeutic interventions driven by high quality software programs), telehealth/telemedicine, and precision medicine. Link for more information: <https://medium.com/digital-medicine-society-dime/digital-health-digital-medicine-digital-therapeutics-dtx-whats-the-difference-92344420c4d5>

As digital health technologies become more common, healthcare providers, including pharmacists, will incorporate digital health into their practices to optimize treatment outcomes. The FDA's perspective on digital health is that it may reduce inefficiencies, improve access, reduce cost, increase quality, and make medicine more personalized for

patients. Considering FDA's stance, digital health technologies align perfectly within the pharmacist's role in improving patient care quality and health/economic outcomes. Link for more information: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/digital-health> Until recently, there was a lack of formal guidance on what qualifies as digital health products and services from the FDA. Now products are receiving FDA-clearance and there is a pre-certification program being piloted to reimagine how these digital health products are regulated. Link for more information: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/digital-health/digital-health-software-precertification-pre-cert-program> In 2020, the first digital health formulary was released by Express Scripts to improve access to these rapidly expanding treatment modalities.

The California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) adopted the following policy in the 2019 HOD.

Digital Health Integration in Pharmacy

5. The California Pharmacists Association supports education about digital health devices and technologies in pharmacy school curricula and for the pharmacy workforce.
6. The California Pharmacists Association supports inclusion of pharmacists in the development of digital health devices and technologies.
7. The California Pharmacists Association supports that digital health devices and technologies be interoperable with and integrated into pharmacy management systems and electronic health records.
8. The California Pharmacists Association supports involvement of pharmacists in utilization of digital health devices and technologies to optimize patient outcomes.

Current APhA Policy & Bylaws:

Policy specific to digital health isn't included in current APhA policy.

****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 19, 2020** (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.