

2020 APhA Virtual House of Delegates

On Friday, March 20, 2020, the APhA House of Delegates met virtually to conduct the business of the House and address proposed policy statements related to issues surrounding the current coronavirus crisis. Below are the statements adopted by the House. The APhA Board of Trustees is also working on drafting a statement on the inappropriate and unethical prescribing/ordering of medications and medical supplies for own use that was referred to it by the House.

Protecting Pharmaceuticals as a Strategic Asset

1. APhA asserts that the quality and safety of pharmaceutical and other medical products and the global pharmaceutical and medical product supply chain are essential to the United States national security and public health.
2. APhA advocates for pharmacist engagement in the development and implementation of national and global strategies to ensure the availability, quality, and safety of pharmaceutical and other medical products.
3. APhA calls for the development, implementation, and oversight of enhanced and transparent processes, standards, and information that ensure quality and safety of all pharmaceutical ingredients and manufacturing processes.
4. APhA calls on the federal government to penalize entities who create barriers that threaten the availability, quality, and safety of United States pharmaceutical and other medical product supplies.
5. APhA calls for the development of redundancy and risk mitigation strategies in the manufacturing process to ensure reliable and consistent availability of safe and high-quality pharmaceutical and other medical products.
6. APhA advocates for regulatory and market incentives that bolster the availability, quality, and safety of pharmaceutical and other medical products.
7. APhA calls for greater transparency, accuracy, and timeliness of information and notification to health care professionals regarding drug shortages, product quality and manufacturing issues, supply disruption, and recalls.
8. APhA encourages pharmacy providers, health systems, and payers to develop coordinated response plans, including the use of therapeutic alternatives, to mitigate the impact of drug shortages and supply disruptions.
9. APhA supports federal legislation that engages pharmacists, other health professionals, and manufacturers in developing a United States-specific essential medicines list and provides funding mechanisms to ensure consistent availability of these products.
10. APhA recommends the use of pharmacists in the delivery of public messages, through media and other communication channels, regarding pharmaceutical supply and quality issues.

Protecting Pharmacy Personnel During Public Health Crisis

1. APhA strongly urges all employers of pharmacists and pharmacy personnel, and the settings in which they practice, to implement protection and control measures and procedures, per consensus recommendations when available, and access to protective gear and cleaning supplies that ensure the safety of pharmacy personnel and that of their family members and the public.
2. APhA urges federal and state government officials, manufacturers, distributors, and health system administrators to recognize pharmacists and pharmacy personnel as “front-line providers” that should receive appropriate personal protective equipment and other resources to protect their personal safety and support their ability to continue to provide patient care.

Pharmaceutical Safety and Access During Emergencies

1. APhA urges government authorities to hold pharmaceutical manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacies and other pharmaceutical supply distributors, and providers accountable to state and federal price gouging laws in selling those items to patients, pharmacies, hospitals and other healthcare providers during times of local, state, or national emergency.
2. APhA urges government authorities to aggressively enforce laws and regulations against adulterated products and false and misleading claims by entities offering to sell pharmaceutical and medical products to healthcare providers and consumers.