

2019–2020 APhA Policy Committee Report

The committee recommends that the association adopt the following statements:

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.

Accountability of Pharmacists

1. APhA affirms pharmacists' professional accountability in all practice settings.
2. APhA advocates that pharmacists be granted and accept authority, autonomy, and accountability for patient-centric actions to improve health and medication outcomes, in coordination with other health professionals, as appropriate.
3. APhA reaffirms 2017 Pharmacists' Role Within Value-based Payment Models and supports continued expansion of interprofessional patient care models that leverage pharmacists as accountable members of the healthcare team.
4. APhA advocates for sustainable payment and attribution models to support pharmacists as accountable patient care providers.
5. APhA supports continued expansion of resources and health information infrastructures that empower pharmacists as accountable healthcare providers.
6. APhA supports the enhancement of comprehensive and affordable professional liability insurance coverage that aligns with evolving pharmacist accountability and responsibility.

Specialty Pharmacy and Specialized Pharmacy Services

1. APhA recognizes that certain complex medications require more specialized care and resources; and APhA asserts that delineation of medications as specialty versus non-specialty, and associated payer and manufacturer practices, introduces risk of continuity of care disruption, patient access issues, and financial inequities.
2. APhA supports pharmacists and pharmacies that choose to specialize or incorporate specialty pharmacy services into their practice and provide enhanced patient care and other services to optimize patient outcomes.
3. APhA opposes payer policies and practices that limit patient choice of qualified pharmacy providers, disrupt continuity of care, or compromise patient safety through the creation of specialty drug lists, and restrictive specialty pharmacy networks.
4. APhA opposes manufacturer distribution and related business practices that restrict patient and pharmacy access to medications, medical products, and patient care services.
5. APhA advocates for the adoption of pharmacy profession-developed, harmonized practice standards for specialized pharmacy practices, and specialty pharmacy services and products.
6. APhA encourages increased availability and use of clinical practice, data integration, patient financial assistance, and other resources to support the provision of specialized pharmacy practices and specialty pharmacy services.
7. APhA supports the availability of education and training for pharmacists and student pharmacists related to specialized pharmacy practices and specialty pharmacy services.