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Secretary of the House of Delegates

Item No. Urgent NB#1

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NEW BUSINESS

(To be submitted and introduced by Delegates only)

Introduced by: Betsy Elswick
(Name)

March 18, 2020
(Date)

(Annual Meeting Contact Number)

Speaker Appointed Delegate from West Virginia
(Organization)

Subject: Protecting Pharmacy Personnel During Public Health Crisis

Motion:

- 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, 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.

Background:

As the coronavirus continues to spread and impact Americans throughout the country, lawmakers are cutting red tape and clearing the way for frontline providers, such as pharmacists, to be a greater resource to patients during these troubling times. In fact, the President and his administration encouraged greater utilization of pharmacists in the care of patients to reduce the stress on hospitals and the medical system. Pharmacies are one of the few community establishments that are encouraged to remain open and accessible to the public.

As the national professional association for pharmacists, APhA has expressed a concern for protecting the safety and well-being of pharmacy personnel who are committed to serving the overall healthcare needs of individuals, whether they have coronavirus or not. The message from the entire profession needs to be strong which is why

this item is being submitted as an urgent New Business Item for passage by the APhA House of Delegates, the representative policy development body for the entire profession.

Patients of America's pharmacists should have the full benefit of pharmacists' expertise in medication therapy and management of patient care services during a health crisis. Pharmacists with appropriate safeguards and protections are ready and able to serve the needs of their communities. However, many healthcare providers are concerned regarding the lack of protective gear (PPE: surgical masks, N-95, etc), cleansing products or modification of pharmacy procedures that limit direct exposure to patients (ie. delivery service, and drive-through and curbside pickup, etc). Protecting pharmacists, and their entire pharmacy team, including student pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, protects patients and their continued access to their pharmacists and the services they offer within the pharmacy practice. As screening and testing, treatment and prevention procedures, and systems are developed, pharmacists and pharmacy staff must be afforded appropriate protections in order to ensure the safety of the pharmacist and the entire pharmacy team, the public and the family members of health care workers.

While the profession stands ready to and is helping our communities, protecting the safety of the entire pharmacy team is paramount.

Current APhA Policy & Bylaws:

Pharmacist and Pharmacy Personnel Safety and Well-Being

2019

1. APhA calls for employers to develop policies and resources to support pharmacy personnel's ability to retreat or withdraw, without retaliation, from interactions that threaten their safety and well-being.
2. APhA encourages the development or utilization of educational programs and resources by the Association, employers, and other institutions to prepare pharmacy personnel to respond to situations that threaten their safety and well-being.

(JAPhA 59(4):e17 July/August 2019)

Role of the Pharmacist in National Defense

2016, 2011, 2002, 1963

APhA endorses the position that the pharmacist, as a member of the health care team, has the ethical responsibility to assume a role in disaster preparedness and emergency care operations. These responsibilities include:

1. Pharmacists, by their education and training as medication experts, should be involved intimately in all elements of the procurement, storage, handling, compounding, and dispensing of drugs and supplies in planning for as well as during any national emergency.
2. Pharmacists, by their education in anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology, are readily adaptable to assist in the emergency medical treatment of patients and for training the public in medical self-help.
3. Pharmacists, by their constant contact with the members of the health team, as well as a significant portion of their communities, provide the potential for coordinating preparedness measures, and establishing meaningful standby emergency operational plans.

In view of these responsibilities, it shall be the further policy of APhA:

1. To cooperate with all responsible agencies and departments of the federal government.
2. To provide leadership and guidance for the profession of pharmacy by properly assuming its role with other health profession organizations at the national level (e.g., American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, American Dental Association, American Nurses Association, and American Veterinary Medical Association).
3. To assist and cooperate with all national specialty pharmaceutical organizations to provide assistance and coordination in civil defense matters relevant to their area of concern.
4. To encourage and assist the state and local pharmacy associations in their efforts to cooperate with the state and local governments as well as the state and local health profession organizations in order that the pharmacist may assume his proper place in civil defense operations.

5. To provide leadership and guidance so that individual pharmacists can contribute their services to civil defense and disaster planning, training, and operations in a manner consistent with their position as a member of the health team.

(JAPhA NS3:330 June 1963) (JAPhA NS42(5): Suppl. 1:S62 September/October 2002) (Reviewed 2006)(Reviewed 2010) (JAPhA NS51(4) 483;July/August 2011)(JAPhA 56(4); 379 July/August 2016)

Disaster Preparedness

2015

APhA encourages pharmacist involvement in surveillance, mitigation, preparedness, planning, response, and recovery related to terrorism and infectious diseases.

(JAPhA N55(4); 365 July/August 2015)

Pharmacist's Role in Immunizations

2005, 2003, 1996

1. APhA encourages pharmacists to take an active role in achieving the goals of the Healthy People program regarding immunizations through: (a) advocacy, (b) contracting with other health care professionals, or (c) pharmacists administering vaccines to vulnerable patients.
2. APhA encourages the availability of all vaccines to all pharmacies in order to meet public health needs.
3. APhA supports the compensation of pharmacists for the administration of immunizations and the reimbursement for vaccine distribution.
4. APhA should facilitate the development of programs that educate pharmacists about their role in immunizations in public health.

(JAPhA NS36(6):395 June 1996) (JAPhA NS43(5):Suppl. 1:S57 September/October 2003) (JAPhA NS45(5):556 September/October 2005)(Reviewed 2007)(Reviewed 2009)(Reviewed 2012)(Reviewed 2014)(Reviewed 2019)

Dispensing and/or Administration of Legend Drugs in Emergency Situations

1979

1. APhA supports making insect sting kits and other, life-saving, emergency, treatment kits available for lawful dispensing by pharmacists without a prescription order, based on the pharmacist's professional judgment.
2. APhA supports permitting pharmacists to lawfully dispense and administer legend drugs in emergency situations, without an order from a licensed prescriber, provided that: (a) There is an assessment on the part of the pharmacist and the patient that the drug is needed immediately to preserve the well-being of the patient, and; (b) The normal legal means for obtaining authorization to dispense the drug must not be immediately available, such as in cases where the patient's physician is not available, and; (c) The quantity of the drug, which can be dispensed in an emergency situation, is enough so that the emergency situation can subside, and the patient can be sustained for the immediate emergency, as determined by the pharmacist's professional judgment.
3. APhA supports expansion of state Good Samaritan Acts to provide pharmacists immunity from professional liability for dispensing in emergency situations without order from a licensed prescriber.
4. APhA supports permitting pharmacists to lawfully dispense and/or administer legend drugs without an order from a licensed prescriber during disaster situations.

(Am Pharm NS19(7):68 June 1979) (Reviewed 2002) (Reviewed 2006) (Revised 2007)(Reviewed 2012)(Reviewed 2012)(Reviewed 2017)

****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.