

# Automation and Information Technology

## Definition of Meaningful Use of Health Information Technology (1006)

*Source: Council on Public Policy*

To advocate to policymakers (public and private) that definitions of “meaningful use of health information technology” address interoperability of medication orders and prescriptions, medication decision support and continuous improvement, and quality reporting; further,

To advocate with respect to interoperability of medication orders and prescriptions that (1) a common medication vocabulary be mandated to promote the semantic interoperability of medication use across the continuum of care, because a common vocabulary is essential for comparative effectiveness research and for communicating medication information; and (2) communication of orders and electronic prescriptions must be demonstrated to be functional and semantically interoperable with pharmacy information systems; further,

To advocate with respect to medication decision support and continuous improvement that (1) medication decision support should include but not be limited to allergy, drug interaction (e.g., drug-lab or drug-disease interactions), duplicate therapy, and dose-range checking; and (2) that such a decision-support service must include an ongoing, continuous improvement process to attune the decision-support service to the needs of the providers who use it; further,

To advocate with respect to quality reporting that the ability to quantify improved patient safety, quality outcomes, and cost reductions in the medication-use process is essential, particularly in antimicrobial and adverse event surveillance.

## Role of Pharmacists in Safe Technology Implementation (1020)

*Source: Council on Pharmacy Practice*

To affirm the essential role of the pharmacist in the evaluation, implementation, and ongoing assessment of all technology intended to ensure safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of the medication-use process.

## Pharmacist’s Role in Health Care Information Systems (0921)

*Source: Council on Pharmacy Management*

To strongly advocate key decision-making roles for pharmacists in the planning, selection, design, implementation, and maintenance of pharmacy information systems, electronic health records, computerized provider order entry systems, and e-prescribing systems to facilitate clinical decision support, data analysis, and education of users for the purpose of ensuring the safe and effective use of medications; further,

To advocate for incentives to hospitals and health systems for the adoption of patient care technologies.

*This policy supersedes ASHP policy 0203.*

## Electronic Health and Business Technology and Services (0712)

*Source: Council on Pharmacy Practice*

To encourage pharmacists to assume a leadership role in their hospitals and health systems with respect to strategic

planning for and implementation of electronic health and business technology and services; further,

To encourage hospital and health-system administrators to provide dedicated resources for pharmacy departments to design, implement, and maintain electronic health and business technology and services; further,

To advocate the inclusion of electronic health technology and telepharmacy issues and applications in college of pharmacy curricula.

*This policy supersedes ASHP policy 0233.*

## Electronic Information Systems (0507)

*Source: Council on Administrative Affairs*

To advocate the use of electronic information systems, with appropriate security controls, that enable the integration of patient-specific data that is accessible in all components of a health system; further,

To support the use of technology that allows the transfer of patient information needed for appropriate medication management across the continuum of care; further,

To urge computer software vendors and pharmaceutical suppliers to provide standards for definition, collection, coding, and exchange of clinical data used in the medication-use process; further,

To pursue formal and informal liaisons with appropriate health care associations to ensure that the interests of patient care and safety in the medication-use process are fully represented in the standardization, integration, and implementation of electronic information systems; further,

To strongly encourage health-system administrators, regulatory bodies, and other appropriate groups to provide health-system pharmacists with full access to patient-specific clinical data.

*This policy was reviewed in 2009 by the Council on Pharmacy Practice and by the Board of Directors and was found to still be appropriate.*

## Online Pharmacy and Internet Prescribing (0523)

*Source: Council on Legal and Public Affairs*

To support collaborative efforts of the Food and Drug Administration, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), and the Federation of State Medical Boards, as stated in the Principles of Understanding on the Sale of Drugs on the Internet, to regulate prescribing and dispensing of medications via the Internet; further,

To support legislation or regulation that requires pharmacy World Wide Web sites to list the states in which the pharmacy and pharmacists are licensed, and, if prescribing services are offered, requires that the sites (1) ensure that a legitimate patient-prescriber relationship exists (consistent with professional practice standards) and (2) list the states in which the prescribers are licensed; further,

To support mandatory accreditation by NABP of pharmacy Web sites and appropriate consumer education about the risks and benefits of using Internet pharmacies; further,

To support the principle that any medication distribution or drug therapy management system must provide

timely access to, and interaction with, appropriate professional pharmacist patient-care services.

*This policy was reviewed in 2009 by the Council on Pharmacy Practice and by the Board of Directors and was found to still be appropriate.*

#### **Computerized Prescriber Order Entry (0105)**

*Source: Council on Administrative Affairs*

To advocate the use of computerized entry of medication orders or prescriptions by the prescriber when (1) it is planned, implemented, and managed with pharmacists' involvement, (2) such orders are part of a single, shared database that is fully integrated with the pharmacy information system and other key information system components, especially the patient's medication administration record, (3) such computerized order entry improves the safety, efficiency, and accuracy of the medication-use process, and (4) it includes provisions for the pharmacist to review and verify the order's appropriateness before medication administration, except in those instances when review would cause a medically unacceptable delay.

*This policy was reviewed in 2010 by the Council on Pharmacy Management and by the Board of Directors and was found to still be appropriate.*

#### **Management of Blood Products and Derivatives (9919)**

*Source: Council on Legal and Public Affairs*

To strongly encourage the computer software industry to provide data fields for lot number, expiration date, and other necessary and appropriate information for blood products and derivatives and biologicals, in order to facilitate compliance with regulatory requirements concerning the use of these products, particularly with respect to recalls or withdrawals.

*This policy was reviewed in 2008 by the Council on Public Policy and by the Board of Directors and was found to still be appropriate.*

#### **Telepharmacy (9920)**

*Source: Council on Professional Affairs*

To foster among health-system pharmacists and leaders of the telecommunications industry a common vision for the integration of telecommunication technology into the delivery of pharmaceutical care.

*This policy was reviewed in 2008 by the Council on Pharmacy Practice and by the Board of Directors and was found to still be appropriate.*

#### **Regulation of Automated Drug Distribution Systems (9813)**

*Source: Council on Legal and Public Affairs*

To work with the Drug Enforcement Administration and other agencies to seek regulatory and policy changes to accommodate automated drug distribution in health systems.

*This policy was reviewed in 2007 by the Council on Public Policy and by the Board of Directors and was found to still be appropriate.*

#### **Automated Systems (9205)**

*Source: Council on Legal and Public Affairs*

To support the use of current and emerging technology in the advancement of pharmaceutical care; further,

To encourage a review and evaluation of the state and federal legal and regulatory status of new technologies as they apply to pharmacy practice.

*This policy was reviewed in 2006 by the Council on Public Policy and by the Board of Directors and was found to still be appropriate.*