



Message from the Chair – Pharmacy Practice Managers – November 2009

Dear Colleagues:

During the week of September 21, 2009, ASHP Councils and Commissions meet to discuss policy and recommended society activities based on member recommendations. Last year, the Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers established a liaison role with the the Council on Pharmacy Management. Hence, for the second year in a row a member of the Executive Committee attended the council meeting to provide feedback on section activity related to council topics and also assure that the Council and the Section are in sync for topics that appear on each group's target. Below is a summary of important topics discussed during the Council Meeting this year:



- Fostering Pharmacy Leadership – council was asked to consider whether ASHP's policy on fostering leadership should be expanded
- Pharmacy Supply Chain Management and Recall Process – council considered the need for further policy or guidance related to managing the pharmacy supply chain in hospitals and health systems, in light of the recent recall events that revealed flaws in the current system of voluntary recalls
- Expansion of Standard Setting Bodies – council discussed the implication on priorities of pharmacy leadership in an era of a growing number of organizations advocating standards for health care organizations and providers.
- Duty Hours for Pharmacy Residents – council discussed standards for medical residents limit of "duty" hours and the recent designation of pharmacists as nonexempt employees in the state of California.
- Quality Measures for Medication Management – council discussed the need for better workload monitoring and reporting systems in pharmacy and consensus around measurement of quality for medication management.
- Workload Monitoring and Reporting – council reviewed this issue for advice to ASHP and SPPM on possible outcomes and action to pursue in follow-up to the recently approved resolution from the 2009 ASHP House of Delegates
- Insurance Coverage and Fragmentation of Care – council discussed the impact of insurance coverage policies on the care of patients in hospitals and health systems, specifically when payers are selecting situations they will not cover the costs of the medications or medication administration devices supplied to patients in hospitals/clinics.
- Verification of Discontinued Drug Orders – council discussed if ASHP should create policy addressing the role of the pharmacist in verifying orders for drug discontinuance.

- Impact of Economic Downturn on Pharmacy Management and Operations – council discussed the implication of the global economic downturn on management of pharmacy operations in hospitals and health systems.
- Joint Commission Problem Areas – council discussed areas of non-compliance with Joint Commission standards that present opportunities for ASHP to assess its policies and the programs and services it provides its members.
- National Quality Forum Best Practice on Pharmacy Leadership – council discussed the implications of the endorsement by the NQF of a Safe Practice 18: Pharmacists Leadership and Systems.

Many of the council topics listed above overlap with existing objectives and charges for the SPPM Executive Committee and Section Advisory Groups. It is a rewarding experience to see that member recommendations on important topics are reviewed at councils and frequently overlap with initiatives the section is already working on.

Don't be surprised if you see some of the issues listed above bubbling up in our section educational programming and other activities.

Sincerely,

Kathy Pawlicki, M.S., FASHP

Chair, Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers (2009-2010)