

APPENDIX B

Characteristics of Good ASHP Professional Policy

Definition

Professional policy: ASHP's official stance on an issue related to pharmacy practice or use of medications in society.

Optimal Characteristics

Optimally, an individual policy position of ASHP will

1. Deal with an important issue in health-system pharmacy practice or societal medication use (consistent with the purposes of ASHP).
2. Generally target a distinct, sharply-defined issue rather than a diffuse, multifaceted issue.
3. Be based on a thorough, balanced analysis of the issue and policy options.
4. Be clear, efficient, and precise in its wording.
5. Be direct in its wording. (It is permissible to be opposed to something; not every position needs to be expressed in "positive" language.)
6. Identify the desired outcome or situation and thereby give ASHP a clear basis for advocacy.
7. Generally be expressed in sufficiently broad language to give ASHP latitude (room for negotiation) in pursuing the desired outcome.
8. Foster the ability of health-system pharmacists to optimize the application of their knowledge, skills, and abilities in practicing their profession.
9. Be consistent with broad national goals in health care delivery, including goals related to health care access, value, and quality.
10. Be motivated by the broad public interest rather than narrow self-interest.
11. Focus on the "right thing to do" (from the public's perspective) rather than on the "easy thing to do" (from a practitioner's perspective).
12. Avoid redundancy with or contradiction of other ASHP policy.
13. (Note: Published titles of policy positions are considered an editorial matter; staff is receptive to suggestions for title changes.)

Implementing ASHP Policy

ASHP has four options in advocating a policy. The Board of Directors and staff decide after a policy is adopted which combination of options to apply in implementing a particular policy position. The four options are

1. Actively and directly pursue implementation of the policy.
2. Collaborate with other stakeholders in actively pursuing implementation of the policy.
3. Communicate the policy to others who have a stake in the issue and who may be working on the issue.
4. Maintain the policy as general guidance and look for opportunities to communicate the policy to interested stakeholders or to collaborate with others on implementation.

In general, the level of effort devoted to implementing a new policy is determined by the extent to which it is embodied in the ASHP Leadership Agenda, which reflects the association's top advocacy priorities.

April 2007
Characteristics of Good ASHP Professional Policy.doc