House of Delegates

Board of Directors Report: Policy Recommendations for the March 2019 Virtual House of Delegates

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The Council on Pharmacy Management is concerned with ASHP professional policies related to the leadership and management of pharmacy practice. Within the Council’s purview are (1) development and deployment of resources, (2) fostering cost-effective use of medicines, (3) payment for services and products, (4) applications of technology in the medication-use process, (5) efficiency and safety of medication-use systems, (6) continuity of care, and (7) related matters.

Jennifer M. Schultz, Board Liaison

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Eric Maroyka, Secretary

Medication Misadventures

To discontinue ASHP policy 9805, Medication Misadventures, which reads:

1. To affirm that pharmacists must assume a leadership role in preventing, investigating, and eliminating medication misadventures across the continuum of care.

Background
The Council reviewed ASHP policy 9805 as part of sunset review and recommended discontinuing this policy as redundant with other ASHP policy, including ASHP policy 0021, Medication Errors and Risk Management, which reads:

To urge that pharmacists be included in healthcare organizations' risk management processes for the purpose of (a) assessing medication-use systems for vulnerabilities to medication errors, (b) implementing medication-error prevention strategies, and (c) reviewing occurrences of medication errors and developing corrective actions.

In addition, the Council noted that the ASHP Guidelines on Preventing Medication Errors in Hospitals has been published and more comprehensively covers this topic. Finally, the Council also agreed that terminology describing medication errors as “misadventures” is outdated.
The Council on Pharmacy Practice is concerned with ASHP professional policies related to the responsibilities of pharmacy practitioners. Within the Council’s purview are (1) practitioner care for individual patients, (2) practitioner activities in public health, (3) pharmacy practice standards and quality, (4) professional ethics, (5) interprofessional and public relations, and (6) related matters.

Paul C. Walker, Board Liaison

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Telepharmacy

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.

1. 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.

Background

The Council voted to recommend discontinuing ASHP policy 9920 because it is redundant with the ASHP Statement on Telepharmacy approved by the House of Delegates in 2016.
Pharmaceutical Counterfeiting

To discontinue ASHP policy 0401, Pharmaceutical Counterfeiting, which reads:

To foster increased pharmacist and public awareness of drug product counterfeiting; further,

To encourage pharmacists to purchase and handle medications in ways that enhance the transparency and integrity of the drug product supply chain; further,

To encourage pharmacists to identify instances of drug product counterfeiting and to respond by assisting the patient in receiving appropriate treatment and monitoring, documenting patient outcomes, and notifying the patient, prescriber, and appropriate state and federal regulatory bodies (e.g., the Food and Drug Administration’s MedWatch system); further,

To provide consumers and health professionals with information on how to avoid counterfeit drug products and how to recognize, respond to, and report encounters with suspicious drug products; further,

To foster research and education on the extent, methods, and impact of drug product counterfeiting and on strategies for preventing and responding to drug product counterfeiting.

Background

The Council reviewed ASHP policy 0401 as part of sunset review and voted to recommend discontinuing the policy because it is redundant with ASHP policy 1602, Drug Product Supply Chain Integrity, and because implementation of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) will address several of the issues described in the policy. The Council concluded that the first clause of ASHP policy 0401 (To foster increased pharmacist and public awareness of drug product counterfeiting) was redundant with the sixth clause of ASHP policy 1602 (To foster increased pharmacist and public awareness of drug product supply chain integrity). Further, the Council concluded that compliance with DSCSA regulations will reduce the incidence of drug product counterfeiting as well as mandate many of the actions advocated in the remaining clauses.
Pharmacist Validation of Information Related to Medications

To discontinue ASHP policy 9921, Pharmacist Validation of Information Related to Medications, which reads as follows:

1. To support consultation with a pharmacist as a primary means for consumers to validate publicly available information related to medications.

Background
The Council discussed ASHP policy 9921 as part of sunset review and determined it was no longer needed given that medication consultation is now mandated by state boards of pharmacy and is considered a pillar of pharmacist-patient interactions. Moreover, patients have to legally sign if they decline medication consultation for the initial fill of the medication.