



ASHP Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is committed to working with the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and other stakeholders to help end the opioid epidemic that is harming our patients and devastating our communities. ASHP believes that pharmacists play a key role as integral members of the patient care team in bringing an end to this epidemic in ways that ensure patients receive relief from pain, while preventing abuse.

ASHP's vision is that medication use will be optimal, safe, and effective for all people all of the time. This includes the safe and appropriate use of opioids. ASHP will continue to engage our nearly 50,000 members in the development and dissemination of education, guidelines, best practices, and other tools to address the opioid epidemic.^{1,2,3,4,5,6}

ASHP is pleased to serve as a sponsor of the NAM Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. Specific areas of commitment from ASHP to the Action Collaborative include but are not limited to:

- Creation and dissemination of patient and prescriber education on pain management and opioid abuse mitigation best practices.
- Enhanced patient access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder through increased utilization of pharmacists on the healthcare team.
- Standardization of a framework for pain stewardship to coordinate pain management, opioid prescribing, and use of non-opioid therapies.
- Coordination of care among patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals through the use of standardized patient-specific pain management and substance use disorder treatment plans.
- Improvement of interoperability, artificial intelligence, and clinical decision support in healthcare information systems.
- Identification of performance and quality metrics to assess impact.
- Stimulating research on pain and opioid use disorders and their respective pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments.
- Advancing efforts to prepare the pharmacy workforce through pharmacy education and professional development programs.

About ASHP

ASHP represents pharmacists who serve as patient care providers in acute and ambulatory settings. The organization's nearly 50,000 members include pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians. For more than 75 years, ASHP has been at the forefront of efforts to improve medication use and enhance patient safety. For more information about the wide array of ASHP activities and the many ways in which pharmacists advance healthcare, visit ASHP's website, www.ashp.org, or its consumer website, www.SafeMedication.com.

¹ ASHP Policy Position 1722, *Pain Management*. Available at: www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/policy-guidelines/docs/policy-positions/policy-positions-specific-practice-areas.ashx (accessed 2019 April 24).

² ASHP Pain Management Toolkit. Available at: www.ashp.org/Pharmacy-Practice/Resource-Centers/Pain-Management-Toolkit (accessed 2019 February 9).

³ Opioid Management Case Studies. Available at: www.ashp.org/Membership-Center/Member-Spotlight-Gallery?category=Opioid Management (accessed 2019 February 9).

⁴ Brummond PW, Chen DF, Churchill WW, et al. ASHP Guidelines on Preventing Diversion of Controlled Substances. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2017; 74(5): 325-348. <https://doi.org/10.2146/ajhp160919>

⁵ Executive summary of the meeting of the 2018 ASHP Commission on Goals: Focus on opioids. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2019; 76(3): 187-191. <https://doi.org/10.2146/ajhp180672>

⁶ ASHP Statement on the Pharmacist's Role in Substance Abuse Prevention, Education, and Assistance. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2016; 73:e267-70. Available at: www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/policy-guidelines/docs/statements/pharmacists-role-substance-abuse-prevention-education-assistance.ashx (accessed 2019 February 9)