



AphA

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

2020-21 House of Delegates

Unfinished business from the November 6, 2020 Special Session of the APhA House of Delegates.

Part 2 - Report of the Policy Review Committee

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE CARRIED OVER FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE MARCH 2021 HOUSE SESSION.

25. INCREASING ACCESS TO AND ADVOCACY FOR MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER (MOUD): STATEMENT 1

The Committee recommends **AMENDING** the following policy statement as written.

1. APhA supports the use of evidence-based **medicine medication** as first-line treatment for opioid use disorder for patients, including healthcare professionals, **such as pharmacists**, in and out of the workplace, for as long as needed to treat their disease.

Rationale from the Policy Review Committee: The Committee recommends amending the statement by replacing “medication” with “medicine” to better align with current practice terminology. Additionally, the phrase “such as pharmacists” was removed because pharmacists are health care professionals, and the Committee believed the repetition was unnecessary. The Committee discussed the removal of “use of evidence-based medicine” because of the assumption that all treatments should be evidence-based. However, this was left in the statement to highlight that treating opioid use disorders is evidence-based. The Committee also agreed to maintain “in and out of the workplace” in the statement to illustrate the social support systems that are also needed when treating opioid use disorder.

26. INCREASING ACCESS TO AND ADVOCACY FOR MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER (MOUD): STATEMENT 2

The Committee recommends **AMENDING** the following policy statement as written.

2. APhA encourages pharmacies to maintain an inventory of medications ~~of public health importance, particularly medications~~ used in treatment of ~~for~~ opioid use disorder, to ensure access for patients.

Rationale from the Policy Review Committee: The Committee decided to remove “of public health importance” because a specific list of medications that are identified as “of public health importance” does not currently exist, and instead added “used in treatment of” to improve the readability of the rest of the statement.

27. INCREASING ACCESS TO AND ADVOCACY FOR MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER (MOUD): STATEMENT 3

The Committee recommends **AMENDING** the following policy statement as written.

3. APhA encourages pharmacists and payers to ensure patients have equitable access to, and coverage for, at least one medication from each class of medications used in the treatment of opioid use disorder. ~~, such as making medications available on the payer’s lowest cost-sharing tier.~~

Rationale from the Policy Review Committee: The Committee discussed the removal of the phrase “such as making medications available on the payer’s lowest cost-sharing tier.” The phrase was removed to develop a clearer focus for the statement to ensure coverage of medications when not requesting they be on the lowest cost-sharing tier. The Committee also discussed the removal of “at least one” and “from each class of medications”; however, removing these phrases could create potential loopholes for payers, so the phrases remained.