



PHARMACISTS' CHARTER ON ACTION AGAINST SMOKING



STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

Pharmacists are committed to tackling the smoking problem as an integral part of their professional responsibilities and will take relevant action to eliminate the risks of smoking for the communities they serve.

CONSEQUENCES OF SMOKING

Pharmacists are familiar with the following consequences of smoking:

- risks to the smoker
- risks to the unborn child
- risks to those who live or work in an atmosphere polluted by other people's smoke
- the social and health costs to society in general.

ADDICTION

Pharmacists recognize that tobacco is a substance which gives rise to both psychological and pharmacological addiction.

DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM

Pharmacists will contribute to a smoke free Europe by:

- providing a role model
- forbidding all smoking in the pharmacy to guard against the risks of passive smoking, particularly to those who are most vulnerable, including young children and asthmatics
- highlighting the health risks of smoking
- encouraging smokers to quit
- providing advice, help and support to smokers who want to quit
- urging Governments to ban the advertising of tobacco products.

ILL HEALTH PREVENTION

Pharmacists are ideally placed to highlight the health risks of smoking by:

- displaying posters and providing relevant literature
- highlighting the problem to specific clients who are being treated with prescription medicines for smoking-related illnesses or conditions that will be made worse by smoking
- raising the issue with smokers who request non-prescription medicines for smoking-related problems
- where opportunities exist, speaking to local groups, including school children, youth clubs and mothers' groups.

CESSATION SERVICES

Pharmacists will provide smoking cessation services to those who wish to quit smoking by:

- advising on how to tackle the problem
- recommending medicinal treatment where appropriate and fully explaining how to use it
- providing continuous support and encouragement.

COOPERATION WITH OTHERS

Pharmacists recognize that all health professionals have a vital role to play in smoking cessation. They will endeavor to work with others particularly multi-disciplinary groups where they exist locally. This will maximize the effect of efforts to reduce the prevalence of smoking and so meet the WHO European and national targets.

