



International Society of Pharmacovigilance

Committed to safer use of medicines worldwide

Statement in support of World Pharmacists Day

25 September 2020

On World Pharmacists Day 2020, the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) recognises the importance of pharmacists in protecting patients from harm due to medicines, and offers its support to pharmacy colleagues in all countries around the globe. ISoP acknowledges the many ways in which pharmacists contribute to transforming global health through enabling the safe use of medicines.

Medicinal products – including prescription medicines, vaccines, over-the-counter medicines, herbal medicinal products & other traditional medicines, and medical devices – have many benefits for the treatment and prevention of disease, but all carry some risk. Pharmacists are medicines experts and have key roles in helping patients manage this benefit-risk balance to facilitate the safer use of medicines worldwide. Pharmacists also work in researching and developing new medicines, as well as in manufacture, medicines regulation and post-marketing monitoring - all of which contribute to ensuring medicines meet quality, efficacy and safety standards.

ISoP acknowledges the importance of pharmacists' expertise in reducing the potential harm to patients from taking or using medicinal products, including:

- Prevention of medication error, by checking patient details, medicines doses and formulation before dispensing, to ensure the right medicine is taken by the right patient.
- Examining prescriptions to identify potential safety issues, for example, interactions between different medicines, contraindications for use, and instances where a medicine may no longer be appropriate.
- Provision of expert advice to patients on safe use of their medicines, including how and when to take them, where to store them, and how to dispose of them safely.
- Counselling patients about possible side effects associated with their medicines, and identifying and reporting adverse reactions as part of drug safety monitoring.

- Teaching and promoting best practices of medication use and pharmacovigilance to health science students, within public health programmes and in the pharmaceutical industry, including the development of high-quality information for patients.
- Supporting patients in different clinical situations - including primary/community healthcare, hospitals and secondary institutions, rest homes and aged-care facilities - for safer use of their medicines.

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that medicines are used appropriately. During 2020, members of ISoP have developed an infographic for patients (available in eight languages at <https://isoponline.org/resources-3/infographics/>) and are asking pharmacists and other health professionals to display this poster in their pharmacy, clinic or other healthcare facility. We recommend use of this poster to facilitate conversations with patients about medicines safety in different settings around the world.

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More information about ISoP

ISoP is a global not-for-profit professional organization <https://isoponline.org/> with over 800 members worldwide. We have regional chapters in many countries, including in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Western Pacific regions (<https://isoponline.org/chapters/>) and several Special Interest Groups, including Medication Error, Risk Communication, Herbal and Traditional Medicines, and Medicines for Women (<https://isoponline.org/special-interest-groups/>).

Applications for membership are welcomed from pharmacists, other health professionals working in pharmacovigilance and patients with an interest in drug safety.

Please apply here: <https://isoponline.org/members/how-to-join-fees/>

For more information about ISoP, please contact Sophie Spence, ISoP Secretary, at: administration@isoponline.org