

### Position Statement Proposal

Committee: New York City Chapter of Health-system Pharmacists  
 Topic: Call for Medication Safety Officers within Institutions in New York  
 Sponsored: Emily Messing and Maabo Kludze

Whereas, progress has been made to improve medication-use safety within institutions, medication errors persist in healthcare, and,

Whereas, the 1999 Institute of Medicine report estimated that as many as 98,000 people die each year from medical errors in the United States<sup>1</sup> and a 2011 global assessment of avoidable costs due to suboptimal medication use was estimated to be \$500 billion a year<sup>2</sup>, and,

Whereas, in the year 2016 medical errors were estimated to be the third leading cause of death in the United States<sup>3</sup>, and,

Whereas, the average hospitalized patient will experience at least one medication error each day<sup>4</sup>, and,

Whereas, a study by Vaida et al state that employing a Medication Safety Officer at least 20 hours a week has shown a significant improvement in national medication safety assessment scores<sup>5</sup>, and,

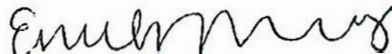
Whereas, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Statement on the role of the Medication Safety Leader states that pharmacists, as experts on medication use, are uniquely qualified to serve as medication safety leaders<sup>6</sup>, and,


Whereas, having a dedicated, Medication Safety Officer position, would further increase this progress by improving upon past safety achievements to be more robust and sustainable through the development of a proactive process to address future safety challenges, and,

Whereas, while not required by accrediting bodies, the Medication Safety Officer's role could potentially include ensuring compliance with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and The Joint Commission Standards including National Patient Safety Goals and medication management standards; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that: The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists supports the establishment of Medication Safety Officer position or equivalent position, a dedicated pharmacist who is directly responsible for and leads health system strategies to prevent, manage, and improve medication-use practices.

Date: 3/13/19

By:   
 Emily Messing, Pharm.D.  
 Signature of NYSCHP Active Member 1

  
 Maabo Kludze, Pharm.D., M.B.A, CDE, BCPS  
 Signature of NYSCHP Active Member 2

## References

1. Kohn L, Corrigan J, Donaldson M, eds. *To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System*. Washington, DC: Committee on Quality of Health Care in America, Institute of Medicine. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 1999.
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3. Makary MA, Daniel M. Medical error—the third leading cause of death in the US. *BMJ*. 2016;353:i2139.
4. Philip Aspden, Julie Wolcott, Lyle Bootman J, Linda R, Cronenwett, Committee on Identifying and Preventing Medication Errors , editors. *Board on Health Care Services; Institute of Medicine*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2007.
5. Vaida AJ, Lamis RL, Smetzer JL, Kenward K, Cohen MR. Assessing the state of safe medication practices using the ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment for Hospitals: 2000 and 2011. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf*. 2014;40(2):51-67.
6. ASHP Statement on the Role of the Medication Safety Leader. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*. 2013;70(5):448-552. doi:10.2146/sp120010