Committee: New York City Society of Health-system Pharmacists

**Topic: Pharmacists’ action plan for drug recalls improving patient safety**

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Whereas, a drug recall is a voluntary action taken by a company to remove a defective drug product from the market to protect the public from harm;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a reputable organization that provides updates regarding drug recalled products;

Whereas, drug recalls are classified by FDA in three different categories, health-system pharmacists will act according to the assigned Class: Class I recalls are the most severe and indicate that exposure and/or consumption of the drug will lead to adverse health effects or death and therefore require immediate action; Class II recalls refer to drugs that induce temporary and/or medically reversible health effects and requires action; Class III recalls occur when adverse health effects are not likely to take place when consuming the drug and, therefore, action may be deferred;

Whereas, pharmacists are not legally obligated to alert their patients, they are the front-line healthcare providers and expected to take action from an ethical standpoint which necessitates contacting patients via phone calls, emails, letters or mobile applications;

Whereas, the Joint Commission MM.05.01.17 EP.1 the hospital follows a written policy describing how it will retrieve and handle medications in the hospital that are recalled or discontinued for safety.

Resolution:

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists supports the pharmacists and pharmacy technicians’ role in proactively developing a process to review drug recall updates, remove recalled medications from the pharmacy and patient care units, and replace affected inventory with safe alternative agents to prevent patient harm, in a timely manner.

Date:  November 6, 2019

By:     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lilia Davenport, PharmD Candidate 2020

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              Johnny Hon, PharmD, BCPS

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Jamie Chin, MS, PharmD, BCOP

References

1. Office of Regulatory Affairs. (n.d.). Recalls, Market Withdrawals, & Safety Alerts. Retrieved 10/27/19 from <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts>.
2. Drug Recalls. Drug Safety and Availability. The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; The Food and Drug Administration. Retrieved 11/3/19 from <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability>