

**Illinois Pharmacists Association  
Professional Affairs Committee**

**Policy Review and Recommendations  
2022 House of Delegates Session**

**Policy Title: 1-A-12 Prescription Drug Sampling -replaces HOD Policy 1-A-12: Prescription Drug Sampling**

**Recommend Archiving old policy; proposing a new policy to take its place**

**Proposed policy language:** To enhance public health, Illinois Pharmacists Association opposes “sampling” of prescription drugs by manufacturers and distributors in Illinois. Illinois Pharmacists Association supports system improvements that provide access to low- or no- cost medications to patients through pharmacies.

**Background:**

old policy stated: “1-A-12: Prescription Drug Sampling: The House of Delegates adopted as policy the resolution: to enhance the public health and control questionable distribution of prescription drugs, the Illinois Pharmacists Association urges the adoption of statutory provisions which will prohibit the “sampling” of prescription drugs by manufacturers and distributors in Illinois.”

Several issues with old policy: no way to track what medications are being given to patients, sampling often limited to low income patients, and does not guarantee continued access to medications. New policy proposes creation of system that will provide access to low or no-cost medications to patients through pharmacists, ensuring pharmacist involvement in the process to ensure DUR/DUE is taking place as a part of the process.

**Policy Title: 3-14: Hypodermic Needles and Syringes; replaces 3-14: Hypodermic Needle/Syringe Exchange Programs**

**Recommend Archiving old policy; proposing a new policy to take its place**

**Proposed Policy Language:** “Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA) supports access to clean hypodermic needles and syringes for all patients and urges pharmacists to follow current laws with regards to hypodermic needle and syringe sales without prejudice or bias. Additionally, IPhA supports development of accessible hypodermic needle and syringe exchange programs.”

**Background:**

old policy: “3-14: Hypodermic Needle/Syringe Exchange Programs: The House accepted that the Association adopt the following policies:

- a. The definition of a Needle Exchange Program (NEP)/(added 1997):
  - i. that the program (NEP) contain provisions for the return and destruction of used needles;
  - ii. that participation in the NEP must be voluntary;
  - iii. that participants must be issued some form of identification to avoid law enforcement issues, in terms of needle exchange.
- b. IPhA supports the concept of Hypodermic needle/syringe exchange programs.
- c. IPhA should develop a list of requirements needed to be met by pharmacists/pharmacies wishing to participate in needle/syringe exchange programs.
- d. IPhA should issue a statement encouraging manufacturers of hypodermic needles/syringes to follow the lead of Cerenex, and provide programs to ensure the proper disposal of their products.”

Previous policy focused on elements of NEPs and included outdated information when it comes to current legislation with regards to hypodermic needle and syringe sales. New policy is intended to support access to clean needles and syringes and encourage pharmacists to follow current laws regarding this issue.