

FIP STATEMENT OF POLICY

THE ROLE OF THE PHARMACIST IN PROMOTING A TOBACCO FREE FUTURE

Tobacco is the cause of serious illnesses and many premature deaths in both developed and developing countries. Dependence on tobacco is a chronic condition, which is difficult to overcome. The treatment of medical conditions induced by tobacco use is a major cost factor in health care.

Pharmacists, in common with all other health professionals, have a responsibility to help people who wish to do so, to give up smoking or other uses of tobacco and to encourage others to do so. To this end, pharmacists fully support the Tobacco-free Initiative of the World Health Organization and its establishment of a comprehensive Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. FIP has created the Global Network of Pharmacists Against Tobacco. This network provides a good opportunity to collect information and promote the role of pharmacists and offers a possibility for pharmaceutical organisations and individual pharmacists to exchange their experiences of smoking ces-

sation work in different practice settings. In the knowledge that pharmacists are committed to taking relevant action to eliminate tobacco use in the communities they serve, **the FIP recommends that:**

Pharmaceutical organisations should:

- participate in the Tobacco-free Initiative of the World Health Organization through the FIP and regional pharmaceutical forums
- participate in other international coalitions and policy-making activities against tobacco
- participate in national coalitions with initiatives against tobacco
- participate in initiatives to produce national or international guidelines on evidence-based practices on the treatment of tobacco dependence and diligently pursue the policies that smoking is not permitted in pharmacies, that tobacco products are not sold in pharmacies, and that licensing bodies should not license pharmacies that are located in premises in which such products are sold
- provide both basic and continuing education to pharmacists, pharmacy students and pharmacy assistants on tobacco use, associated health risks and quitting processes
- develop internal policies banning the use of tobacco within the organisation and provide support services to help staff members of the organisation to quit

- raise public awareness of health problems linked to use of tobacco by taking part in population-based programmes such as the 'Quit and Win' campaign and World No Tobacco Day

- conduct surveys and research projects on the anti-tobacco activities of pharmacists and the services they provide to encourage people to quit.

Individual pharmacists should:

- participate in accredited continuing education programmes on tobacco use, associated health risks and quitting processes, to equip them to lead cessation programmes
- take a more active role by providing services to those who wish to quit the use of tobacco and to those who have tobacco induced disease, the services to include group and individual cessation programmes, and
- lead and participate in multidisciplinary professional group cessation programmes where they are initiated in their local areas
- participate in media campaigns designed to highlight the dangers of use of tobacco and to help people to quit
- provide an example and leadership by being free of tobacco themselves and include smoking habits in patient medication records, as smoking can interfere with the effect of medications.