
FIP HOLDING STATEMENT

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ENABLING LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR PERSON-CENTRED PHARMACY PRACTICE AND SERVICE- ORIENTED COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Cape Town, 2 September 2024

Around the world, pharmacy practice has evolved, and continues to evolve, towards the provision of pharmaceutical care and a range of person-centred primary healthcare services such as:

- Ensuring the responsible, safe, efficacious and cost-effective use of medicines (e.g., medication therapy management, medicines use review, new medicine service, medication reconciliation, treatment regimen adherence, etc.);
- Empowering people, through health promotion, to better manage and be active participants in their health journey, increasing control over their health and its determinants;
- Empowering self-care and managing common ailments in the community, thus providing timely care and reducing pressure on general practice teams and emergency departments;
- Preventing, screening for and managing chronic non-communicable diseases;
- Improving vaccine confidence, delivery and uptake;
- Curbing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through appropriate antimicrobial stewardship;
- Screening for infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis;
- Improving patient safety;¹
- Collaborating with other public services to reduce vulnerabilities and the impact of social determinants on the population.

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¹ Patient safety is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "the absence of preventable harm to a patient and reduction of risk of unnecessary harm associated with health care to an acceptable minimum." Within the broader health system context, it is "a framework of organised activities that creates cultures, processes, procedures, behaviours, technologies and environments in health care that consistently and sustainably lower risks, reduce the occurrence of avoidable harm, make error less likely and reduce impact of harm when it does occur." Source: www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/patient-safety



A robust body of evidence shows that these services provide significant value to individuals, other healthcare professionals, health systems, and society as a whole. To achieve a fully person-centred and service-oriented pharmacy practice model, it is essential to define pharmacies as healthcare facilities, to designate pharmacists as healthcare providers, and to provide an enabling legislative and regulatory framework. It is equally important to define and set in place the funding mechanisms that render the provision of these services equitable and sustainable. In many parts of the world, regulations and legislative frameworks related to pharmacy practice are well-established but not consistently enforced. Therefore, it is vital to emphasise the need for rigorous enforcement of these regulations to ensure high standards of practice and effective collaboration among pharmacists. Along with establishing and enforcing enabling regulations and a legislative framework, a supportive ecosystem is essential for sustainable pharmacy practice. This includes addressing commercial challenges such as stiff competition, internet pharmacies, drug discounts, dispensing doctors, corruption, and overall unethical practices. In environments where these issues prevail, pharmacists may be forced to focus solely on the sale of medicines for the survival of their pharmacies, rather than providing healthcare services. To ensure that pharmacies are recognised and function as health facilities, rather than merely as traders, governments must pay close and deep attention to pharmacy practice and support the development of a healthier pharmacy practice environment.

In all countries, the legislation that defines how community pharmacies operate, their workforce and functional requirements, their supervision, and the services they provide to the community are crucial elements of health policy that must respond to the healthcare needs of populations.

Therefore, FIP in this holding statement recommends that:

1. Professional and person-centred community pharmacies are essential for a functional and efficient health system and should be established.
2. Governments should not only uphold this model of community pharmacy, but also leverage community pharmacies for the provision of integrated primary healthcare, thus reducing pressure on general practice teams and emergency departments, and making better use of the limited health workforce and other resources.



3. Collaboration among pharmacists working in diverse settings, such as community pharmacies, GP offices, surgeries, residential aged care facilities, and public and private hospitals, is crucial for optimising healthcare delivery. To ensure effective collaboration, it is important that pharmacists engage with each other across all practice settings, particularly during transitions of care. Effective communication among pharmacists and other healthcare professionals at these transitions is essential for providing seamless and comprehensive patient care.
4. Pharmacy, as a profession with direct impact on peoples' health, must be appropriately regulated.
5. Pharmacy professional regulatory bodies play an important and decisive role in overseeing the profession and setting standards of practice, ethical conduct and public protection, namely by regulating workforce capability, performance, and the scope of practice of pharmacists to ensure patient safety and optimal health outcomes. Hence, it is essential that, in each jurisdiction, a pharmacy professional regulator is in place and can set mechanisms to ensure the highest standards of practice.
6. For workforce capability, governments need to ensure that pharmacy education is fit for purpose.

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FIP furthermore recommends regulations that:

1. Promote health and digital literacy among the public to empower them in managing their health and making informed decisions.
2. Encourage collaboration and integrated primary health care to ensure seamless patient care and resource efficiency.
3. Provide necessary support such as education, training and awareness campaigns on digital skills, and enhance the effectiveness and interoperability of digital systems and the use of smart technologies.
4. Ensure international relevance and alignment of pharmacy practices and standards, where appropriate, to promote global health and cooperation.
5. Establish robust governance and implementation frameworks to ensure the successful adoption and sustainability of these recommendations.