



American College of Preventive Medicine
physicians dedicated to prevention

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American College of Preventive Medicine Applauds CVS' Decision to Halt Tobacco Sales

Washington, DC - Feb 7, 2014 -The [American College of Preventive Medicine](#) (ACPM) today took note of the decision by CVS Caremark to discontinue the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products at its outlets across the country.

ACPM's President-Elect, Daniel S. Blumenthal, MD, MPH, FACPM said "The American College of Preventive Medicine congratulates CVS Caremark on its decision to discontinue the sale of tobacco products. The decision sends a strong message to CVS customers, to other retailers, and to the public at large that a business focused on health and health care -- such as a pharmacy -- should not be selling products that are injurious to health. CVS has taken an important leadership role; we hope that other pharmacy chains, as well as independent pharmacies, will follow suit."

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable illness and death. Over 400,000 deaths per year in the United States alone are attributable to smoking. Tobacco use is a major risk factor for heart disease, cancer, stroke, and other diseases. There is good evidence that reducing the availability of tobacco products will reduce their use. Moreover, limiting the number of retailers at which tobacco products can be purchased helps reinforce the message that smoking is no longer socially acceptable. Hence, the decision by CVS to eliminate the sale of tobacco products at its stores is an important step in the national effort to reduce tobacco use.

About the American College of Preventive Medicine

The American College of Preventive Medicine is the professional organization of physicians dedicated to the prevention of disease and disability. Founded in 1954, ACPM focuses on practice, research, publication, and teaching of evidence-based [preventive medicine](#). As the umbrella society for the specialty of Preventive Medicine and physicians dedicated to prevention, ACPM seeks to improve the health of individuals and populations through evidence-based health promotion, disease prevention, and systems-based approaches to improving health and health care. For more information, visit www.acpm.org.

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