

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **STATEMENT ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM**

***Preamble:***

Older adults have unique and complex health care needs. As aging occurs, multiple chronic diseases develop which leads to increased medication use. Organ systems, such as the liver and kidneys, often decline in function. The ability of many older adults to care for themselves also may decline and become more problematic due to aging and cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's disease. As a result of these factors, the provision of health care to older adults usually requires a team of health professionals with training in a variety of disciplines.

***Position:***

The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) strongly supports the concept of the interdisciplinary team as the most effective means for providing quality health care for older adults. The pharmacist interacts with other interdisciplinary team members to develop and implement patient-centered care, enhance pharmaceutical care and optimize therapeutic outcomes. As an integral member of the interdisciplinary team, the pharmacist participates in quality measurement and improvement programs.

In cooperation with other interdisciplinary team members, ASCP encourages pharmacists to participate in patient care, including the following activities:

- Assist older adults with medication adherence, including special packaging and medication systems
- Monitor drug therapy to assure optimal therapeutic outcomes
- Evaluate drug utilization and development of formularies
- Develop quality measurement and improvement programs
- Perform resident assessments and develop care plans
- Provide drug information for all interdisciplinary team members
- Educate patients, family members, and patient advocates
- Provide educational programs and actively participate in relevant committees, such as: infection control, formulary, and pharmaceutical services committees.

*Approved by the ASCP Board of Directors, July 29, 2001; last reviewed October 2017. Developed by the Professional Affairs Council. Supersedes earlier version, dated July, 1994.*