

**CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS  
PROPOSAL IN STP FORMAT**

**PROPOSAL:** To adopt CSHP Professional Policy on “Improving patient safety by implementing patient identification processes in the outpatient setting”

**SUBMITTED BY:** CSHP Board of Directors

**DATE:** January 22, 2010

**SITUATION:**

1. Furnishing outpatient medications to the wrong patient can lead to serious adverse events.
2. The Board of Pharmacy has reported that they commonly issue citations to outpatient pharmacists and pharmacies as a result of medication(s) being dispensed to the wrong patient.
3. Statutes and regulations do not stipulate any procedure for checking patient identification when dispensing a medication.

**TARGET:**

1. Patients have a right to receive the correct medication.
2. CSHP Mission Statement attests that: “CSHP...promote(s) the health, safety, and appropriate use of medication therapy for patients and the public.”
3. The Joint Commission encourages the use of “two patient identifiers... when administering medications...”
4. ASHP Professional Policy Position 0518 states that one of the responsibilities of each State Board of Pharmacy is “To advocate appropriate oversight of pharmacy practice... to ensure the effective oversight and regulation of pharmacy practice.”
5. ASHP’s Professional Policy Position 0021 (Medication Errors and Risk Management) urges that pharmacists be included in risk management processes for the purpose of (a) assessing medication-use systems for vulnerabilities to medication errors, (b) implementing medication-error prevention strategies.

**PROPOSAL:**

1. To approve the following professional policy:

CSHP supports accurate dispensing procedures to reduce medication errors for patients in the outpatient setting that include:

1. The use of at least two-identifiers (e.g. patient’s date of birth, patient’s address, or name of drug) for assuring patient identification and
2. A final confirmation step prior to verifying that the issued prescriptions are for the correct patient.

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**RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR PROPOSED ACTION(S):**

Financial: None  
EVP time: None  
Staff time: None

**CSHP BOARD ACTION:**

During the January 22, 2010 Board of Directors meeting, the board voted to approve the proposal.