



PRESS RELEASE

PHARMACISTS PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN SELF-CARE

New FIP Statement outlines roles and responsibilities

The key role of pharmacists in self-care, including self-medication, is set to develop even further as pharmacies become a first port-of-call for health advice, says a new statement of principle from the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique.

Recognising the growing interest in self-care, the FIP statement sets out how pharmacists' education and training equips them with the knowledge to provide professional, impartial advice on self-care, including:

- sound advice on maintaining a healthy lifestyle;
- appropriate reponse to symptoms (including when it is necessary to seek medical advice rather than self-medicate);
- choice of self-treatment, where it is appropriate to do so;
- safe and effective use of self-treatment;
- safe storage and disposal of medicines.

The responsibilities of pharmacists advising on self-medication include:

- respect for patient confidentiality;
- professional assessment of the customer's needs, including when medical advice is necessary;
- closer working relationships with medical professionals on aspects of referral where medical advice is needed;
- premises that inspire confidence in the professional services on offer;
- recognition of the special status of medicines as commodities that need to be taken with care.

The FIP document will now be circulated to member associations where, it is hoped, the principles will be adopted and the detail adapted for use in local settings

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