



AMCP'S POSITION ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION OF MEDICATION ERROR REPORTING¹

Consumers want and deserve to be confident in the safety of the health care system. Programs designed to reduce medication errors are necessary to achieve optimal patient care and meet the public demand for a safer health care system.

AMCP Position: AMCP supports a medication error reporting system that encourages participation while providing confidentiality and protection of the information reported and the person(s) reporting. This system should include processes to detect and correct errors, identify trends or patterns and encourage changes to the medication delivery process to reduce the potential for future errors.

- Medication error reporting programs should detect, correct and prevent errors, and result in a reduction in adverse events associated with medication errors.
- In order to encourage participation, error reporting programs should protect against civil discovery of the reported information.
 - A disclosure of information may be permitted in a criminal proceeding, but only if the information to be disclosed is material to the proceeding, is not available from any other source, and is in the public interest.
- Error reporting programs must provide adequate safeguards against breaches of the privacy of the system along with penalties for those who commit such breaches.
 - Explicit protection should be provided for information shared if a "national databank" is created, as well as for transmission of error data across state lines. Federal protections should pre-empt less stringent state laws.

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*The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound **medication management principles and strategies to assist patients in achieving positive** therapeutic outcomes. The Academy's 6,000 members develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit. More news and information about AMCP can be obtained on its website, at www.amcp.org.*

¹ See AMCP's Where We Stand Position Statement on Medication Error Reporting, Confidentiality and Protection of. <http://www.amcp.org/Tertiary.aspx?id=8741>