

Summary of APhA Foundation White Paper on Expanding the Role of Pharmacists in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, and is a major concern among the healthcare community. Because of their access to the community and extensive clinical knowledge, pharmacists are well positioned to help patients with chronic diseases such as COPD, which requires ongoing treatment, monitoring and encouragement.

As a starting point for involving pharmacists more fully in the care of COPD patients, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation—supported by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.—published this 9-page white paper based on a roundtable discussion of the pharmacist’s role in detection, assessment, treatment and management of patients with COPD.

Three key roles are examined:

1. Improving adherence and compliance to medication regimens
2. Incorporating pharmacists into support groups, education programs, and smoking cessation programs
3. Providing medication regimen reviews

The COPD White Paper is intended for all members of interdisciplinary COPD care teams as well as:

- pharmacy organization senior management.
- practicing community pharmacists.
- pharmacy educators and students.
- marketing and community events planners.
- developers of clinical programs and patient education.

The COPD White Paper is available for download at the [APhA Foundation website](#).



Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. supports the pharmacist’s role in patient care with pharmacy-oriented resources for disease management, adherence, and more.