

Institute for Safe Medication Practices
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2008

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ISMP Issues White Paper
on Problem of Medication Misuse

Huntingdon Valley, Pa.—Today the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is releasing a white paper on inappropriate medication use and the role of the community pharmacist in helping Americans take their medications safely. The white paper outlines the potential contributing factors to the problem of medication misuse, and discusses how pharmacists can provide solutions through patient education, counseling, and monitoring of drug therapy.

The Institute calls for Congress, healthcare policymakers, employers, insurers, and the public at large to ensure that adequate funding and resources are available for pharmacists to provide additional medication-related services to patients, including medication therapy management and collaborative drug therapy management.

The white paper is part of a broader campaign to help pharmacists educate the public about medication misuse that ISMP and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) are conducting through a grant from the Community Pharmacy Foundation. The campaign also will include a powerpoint presentation for pharmacists to deliver to consumer audiences, with tips on reading medication labels, medication disposal and utilizing the services provided by pharmacists.

For a copy of ISMP's new white paper, visit

www.ismp.org/Tools/whitepapers/CommunityPharmacy.pdf . For more information on the ISMP-APhA educational campaign, visit www.pharmacist.com/usemedicinessafely.

About ISMP: The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents nearly 30 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process.

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