



WASHINGTON STATE PHARMACY ASSOCIATION

Facts on Pharmacist Access to Care

- For over 25 years, Washington pharmacists have increased access to numerous patient care programs through the implementation of Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreements (CDTA) allowing pharmacists in Washington to initiate therapy under signed prescriptive protocols with a prescriber.
- Washington pharmacists have over 1200 CDAs involving multiple pharmacists and multiple locations which improve access to care in many areas such as Immunizations, Pain Management, Anticoagulation, Diabetes, Hyperlipidemia, Tobacco Cessation and Emergency Contraception.¹
- Washington Pharmacists were the first in the nation to expand access to Adult Immunizations, Tobacco Cessation, and Emergency Contraception and their programs are public health models for other states. Due to our lead and support, pharmacists are now providing Adult Immunizations in 44 states and Emergency Contraception access has expanded to 9 states.²
- Approximately 3600 pharmacists have been trained with the Emergency Contraception Provision by Pharmacists training program through the Washington State Pharmacy Association. To put this in perspective, there are currently 5000 licensed pharmacists living in Washington.^{3, 4}
- Washington pharmacists safely and appropriately processed and dispensed 55,046,964 prescriptions in 2003. It is projected that they fill more than 85 million in 2006.⁵
- Approximately 200,000 Emergency Contraception prescriptions have been written and dispensed by pharmacists in WA since 1997. This number does not include Emergency Contraception prescriptions written by physicians and ARNPs.⁶
- Approximately 2,000 women per month access EC directly in pharmacies in WA.⁷
- At least 40% of all Plan B sold in the US comes from the first 6 states where pharmacists have had EC prescriptive authority for the past 2 years.⁸
- Pharmacy school, like medical school, requires 4 years of professional education to obtain a doctoral degree. The Pharm.D. training focuses on pharmacotherapy, medicinal chemistry, clinical therapeutics, patient assessment and medication management.

1.Washington State Board of Pharmacy Data June 2006

2.National Alliance on Pharmaceutical Care

3.Washington State Pharmacy Association Continuing Education Database

4.2005 WA Pharmacist Licensure Data Washington State Board of Pharmacy

5.NACDS The Chain Pharmacy Industry Profile; 2004

6.Estimated from data collected in Washington EC Pilot Project

7.Washington EC Pilot Project data

8.Erica Higgins, Plan B product manager for Barr Laboratories