Pharmacists:
Help Prevent HIV and Hepatitis C In Your Community

Pharmacists across California may sell or furnish any number of syringes to adults 18 and older without a prescription, as of January 1, 2015, as part of the state’s strategy to prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis C, and other blood-borne pathogens.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1743 (Ting, Statutes of 2014) expands the role of pharmacists in this important work and removes prior restrictions on pharmacy practices.

Keep in mind:

- Counties do not have to authorize these sales.
- Pharmacies do not have to register with local health departments, keep logbooks, fill out paperwork, or ask for identification to sell syringes without a prescription.

How do we know it works?

Researchers evaluated a pilot program in several counties in California, and found that, consistent with research findings from other states:

- People who inject drugs who purchased syringes from pharmacies were LESS likely to share injection equipment, reducing their risks of transmitting blood-borne diseases.¹
- Participating pharmacists reported only minor challenges in implementing syringe sales.²
- There was no increase in unsafe discard of syringes in the community.³

Where to get more information:

The California Department of Public Health has information and materials for pharmacies and customers at: http://cdph.ca.gov/syringeaccess

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² Rose, V. and Raymond, F. "Evaluation of nonprescription syringe sales in San Francisco" J Am Pharm Assoc. 2010;50
³ California Department of Public Health, op cit.

Questions about the law? Contact ehuriaux@projectinform.org or call (415) 580-7301.