

**2005 alPHa Resolution A05-14,**

**TITLE:** Community Pharmacies and Public Health Emergencies

**SPONSOR:** Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health

**WHEREAS** public health emergencies require responses that are accessible, comprehensive, effective and rapid as possible; and

**WHEREAS** community pharmacies are locally accessible, have regulated pharmacists and an infrastructure that can be mobilized to respond to public health emergencies; and

**WHEREAS** community pharmacies have extensive multi-site information systems linked to the Ontario government (i.e., drug benefit program) that can serve as an early warning system in the identification of infectious diseases and can monitor and track medications dispensed to the public; and

**WHEREAS** community pharmacies have an efficient distribution system for medical products and supplies from manufacturers to consumers; and

**WHEREAS** community pharmacies have extensive communications strategies and systems to provide consumers with accurate and timely information; and

**WHEREAS** community pharmacies have demonstrated their importance as emergency responders, e.g., during the Walkerton and SARS outbreaks;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** alPHa/COMOH urges the Government of Ontario to immediately initiate discussions/negotiations with representatives of chain and independent community pharmacies regarding the provision of emergency management support services during provincial public health emergencies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Community Safety and Correctional Services and Health and Long-Term Care, Commissioner of Emergency Management, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores are so advised.

*Action from Conference:*

***CARRIED***