

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR FRENCH PHARMACY

A Committee to involve French pharmacists in prevention and health education

**Cespharm** +  
ÉDUCATION ET PRÉVENTION  
POUR LA SANTÉ

Founded in 1959, The Health and Social Education Committee for French Pharmacy (Cespharm) is a special unit of the French Council of Pharmacists. The purpose of the Committee is to help the French pharmacists to fulfill their duties in health education and prevention.

**A. Blanc, F. Blanchet, C. Dreux**  
Health and Social Education Committee for French Pharmacy (CESPHARM)  
French Council of Pharmacists

Cespharm targets all pharmacists: community pharmacists (owners and employees), clinical biologists, hospital pharmacists...

## COMPOSITION OF THE CESPHEM

### Presidency

- President: Pr. C. Dreux
- Vice-presidents: A. Del Corso, J. Lamarche

### Members

The Committee is composed of members from the various organizations representative of French pharmacy:

- Different sections of the French Council of Pharmacists
- Pharmacy owners' unions
- Universities
- Ministry of Health

### Administrative team

- Secretary-general: F. Blanchet
- 1 pharmacist
- 3 assistants

## ASSIGNMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CESPHEM

### *To contribute to the information and the training of the pharmacists in public health issues*

The Cespharm provides pharmacists with technical sheets to update pharmacists' knowledge and give practical information on prevention, disease early detection and patient education.

The Committee also works out on training programs in partnership with pharmacists' continuing education organizations and experts.

The training programs unfold nationwide. They are financed by the different pharmaceutical firms concerned.



Examples: "Workshops on Diabetes I and II" (1999-2001), "Pharmacist and smoker" (2000-2001), "Pharmacist and osteoporosis" (2002-2003).

### *To work out and provide the pharmacists tools for the education of the public*

The Committee provides the pharmacists, free on request, posters and leaflets covering 50 different topics (proper use of medicines, cardiology, nutrition, addictions, vaccinations, various pathologies...), intended to support communication between pharmacists and the public. The pharmacists can order these documents through a specific order form.

### **To relay national or worldwide campaigns of public health to the pharmacists**

The Cespharm regularly informs pharmacists about national and worldwide health campaigns through the journal of the French Council of Pharmacists and provides them with the tools (leaflets, posters...) they need.

Health days relayed by the Committee: World Diabetes Day (November 14th), World AIDS Day (December 1st), World no Tobacco Day (May 31st), World Osteoporosis Day (October 20th)...

## **FIGURES IN 2005:**

- 12,000 pharmacists requested documents
- were provided:
  - 1,315,000 leaflets for the public
  - 22,750 posters
  - 300,000 technical documents for pharmacists

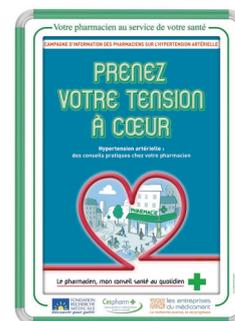
### **To undertake studies and surveys concerning pharmaceutical care and public health**

- Follow-up of asthmatic patients by pharmacists (1998-1999)
- Use of nicotine replacement therapy delivered from community pharmacy (2001)
- Perception by pharmacists and patients of the pictograms announcing a drug effect on vigilance (2004)

### **To conceive and carry out actions of public health to be promoted by the pharmacists**

Considering pharmacists' needs and skills, Cespharm regularly initiates actions especially designed for them, emphasizing their specific role:

- Since 2003, The Cespharm has designed a window poster campaign to encourage pharmacists to reserve a part of their window to post up messages regarding prevention and health education continuously. The Committee provides the pharmacists an adhesive frame and 6 posters per year. In 2006, approximately 1,000 pharmacists joined the program.
- In 2006, the Committee collaborated with the Communication department of the French Council of Pharmacists to implement a national information campaign on hypertension led by pharmacists. Several tools (leaflets, poster...) were created to help the pharmacists to increase public awareness on this pathology, for promoting the proper use of drugs and self-blood pressure monitoring.



### **To collaborate with the various actors of the prevention and health education**

The Cespharm must work in partnership with other organizations to enrich and develop its actions. Its main partners are:

- National institute for prevention and health education (INPES)
- French health products safety agency (AFSSAPS)
- Public authorities
- Scientific and professional societies
- Patient associations

## **CONCLUSION**

Cespharm is a unique structure permitting the French pharmacists to display free, validated and independent scientific data and information to the general public.

In France, public health is becoming a national priority and French pharmacists are more and more involved in health education:

- tobacco cessation (NRT "*pharmaceutical prescription*" and follow-up of smokers during cessation)
- emergency contraception (levonorgestrel "*pharmaceutical prescription*" and legal obligation of educational interviews with minors)
- care of drug addicts (involvement in heroin substitution)...

In this context, the Cespharm will work on new actions related to prevention and health education and expand its activities in order to respond better to the increasing requests from the pharmacists.

## **Contacts**

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