

Addressing Stigma

In The Pharmacy Setting



Stigma may be experienced in all areas of life, but stigmatizing language or actions from pharmacists is particularly harmful because it negatively affects people seeking medication at a time when they are their most vulnerable.

Stigma in pharmaceutical practices undermines proper medication administration, treatment, and successful health outcomes. And as a result, is a barrier to care for people seeking services for disease prevention or treatment of acute or chronic conditions like Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, HIV and Hepatitis C, and Mental Illness. Using appropriate terminology, language, and actions—free from bias and discrimination—positively affects the way patients may view themselves and their willingness to continue treatment.

Confronting Stigma in the Pharmacy Setting **Steps for Success**

- Understand** Understand your community and its diversity of people.
- Accept** Accept without judgment who people are, how they choose to live their lives, and the choices that they make.
- Do Not Judge** Set aside your personal beliefs and avoid judgment(s).
- Empathize** Put yourself in your patient's shoes, recognizing individual needs/issues, barriers to care, and positive health outcomes.

Developed in partnership with the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Funding for activities performed under this Grant was provided by the ADPH, Bureau of Prevention, Promotion, and Support through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Grant number 6 NU17CE924964-01-01, Overdose Data to Action, Injury prevention and Control Research and State and Community Based Programs Funding (93.136) for budget period September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

Download this toolkit at stopjudging.org