



U.S. Pharmacopeia  
The Standard of Quality™

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## Key Public Health Issues Addressed in USP White Papers

### *Vital Role of Public Standards Seen in a Range of Health Topics*

**Rockville, Md., September 23, 2009** — In a series of important new white papers released today, the U.S. Pharmacopeial (USP) Convention examines the essential role of science-based public standards for food and drug quality in national and international efforts to promote public health. The papers are available on the home page of [www.usp.org](http://www.usp.org), and provide a valuable information resource regarding USP's current and potential roles in advancing public health. Topics are:

- USP's Role in Setting Enforceable Quality Standards for Medicines
- A Model System to Promote Access to Good Quality Compounded Medicines
- Importance of Standards in Assuring Good Quality Food Ingredients and Foods
- Access to Good Quality Dietary Supplements
- Opportunities for Drug Information and Use Standards
- USP's Role in Patient Safety
- USP's Role in Assuring Global Access to Quality Medicines

“At a time when global supply chains for medicines and foods have brought both benefits and threats to patients and consumers,” said Roger L. Williams, M.D., USP's chief executive officer, “worldwide efforts to safeguard these supplies must be enhanced wherever possible. USP plays key roles in these efforts as a volunteer-driven standards-setting organization, and the white papers are an excellent overview of the scope and depth of USP's continuing commitment to advancing public health. Equally important, they offer roadmaps to the future to allow further strengthening of the collective safety nets that help ensure the safety and benefit of foods and drugs for citizens of the United States and all countries in the world.”

The white papers were written by USP experts in collaboration with volunteer members of the USP Council of the Convention, a leadership body taken from the USP membership. Convention members come from a wide range of practitioner, professional, consumer, regulatory and industry organizations. These member organizations name delegates who meet every five years to debate USP's directions for the next cycle and conduct other key governance activities. The white papers will help lay the groundwork for Convention discussions and Board direction about USP's ongoing strategies.

USP is a scientific nonprofit that sets standards for the quality, purity and identity of medicines, food ingredients and dietary supplements. USP's drug standards are officially recognized in the United States, and all three types of standards are used and relied upon in more than 130 countries. USP standards are established by a group of more than 700 volunteer scientific and regulatory experts from around the world,

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working in concert with USP's staff to develop standards that reflect the best in current scientific understanding.

For more information about USP, please visit [www.usp.org](http://www.usp.org) or email [mediarelations@usp.org](mailto:mediarelations@usp.org).

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**USP—Advancing Public Health Since 1820**

The United States Pharmacopeial (USP) Convention is a scientific, nonprofit, standards-setting organization that advances public health through public standards and related programs that help ensure the quality, safety, and benefit of medicines and foods. USP's standards are recognized and used worldwide. For more information about USP visit <http://www.usp.org>. **FY1008**