



California Dental Hygienists' Association
The Voice of Dental Hygiene

October 21, 2014

As health care professionals, California Registered Dental Hygienists are committed to disease prevention and health promotion, advocating for government policies that safeguard the public's health. The California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA), joins other healthcare organizations including the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association and the American Pharmaceutical Association in the endorsement of tobacco-free and cigarette-free pharmacies.

Tobacco use takes a tremendous toll on the health of Californians, with nearly one of every five deaths in the state attributed to smoking.¹ Tobacco usage remains the leading preventable contributor to morbidity and mortality in the United States.²

Most independently owned pharmacies in California are tobacco free, however tobacco products are still sold by 94% of chain drugstores. CVS Caremark stores have removed tobacco products from their shelves, however, there are no current indicators, that other chain drugstores will follow suit.

As health educators, clinicians, researchers, and patient advocates, dental hygienists and CDHA support the Tobacco Education Coalition of San Mateo and government policies that promote tobacco-free pharmacies in all California cities.

CDHA believes it is in the best interest of the health of all Californians and respectfully submits our endorsement of tobacco-free and cigarette-free pharmacies



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1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2014 Feb 6].

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. QuickStats: Number of Deaths from 10 Leading Causes—National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2010. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2013: 62(08);155[accessed 2014 Feb 6].

