A. Introduction

In accordance with the University of Colorado Policy on Alcohol and Drugs, the following School of Pharmacy policy regarding substance abuse (alcohol, drugs or other types of substances) has been established. A student pharmacist or pharmacist who irresponsibly or illegally uses alcohol, drugs or other substances of abuse discredits his or her professionalism and pharmacy as a health care profession.

B. Policy Statement

Substance abuse compromises the student’s ability to learn and to practice as a health care provider and is considered unprofessional conduct subject to the Student Ethics and Conduct Code. Substance abuse includes the use of any substance that is illegal by federal or state law, the inappropriate use of legal substances, or the use of any substance that, in the school’s judgment, impairs the ability to practice pharmacy or meet the technical standards of the PharmD program. Students who have a substance abuse problem should seek assistance through the Assistant Dean for Student and Professional Affairs and will be referred for evaluation in the Colorado Pharmacists Recovery Network (CPRN) program through Peer Assistance Services.

Students or accepted applicants may be required to submit urine and/or blood samples for random drug screenings at the discretion of the school or experiential sites. Those who do not pass or refuse to submit may be dismissed from the program. Samples must meet all requirements for analysis by a licensed independent laboratory. The laboratory will provide interpretation of the results based on predetermined cutoff values and will allow students to declare and verify prescription drugs which are being used under the care of a licensed prescriber at the time of the screening. Students have the right to review the information reported by the designated vendor for accuracy and completeness and to request that the designated vendor verify that the results of the drug screen provided are correct. Students testing positive without a valid prescription will be referred for evaluation as described below.

A student who through direct or indirect evidence has been identified by the School of Pharmacy to have a suspected substance abuse problem must undergo immediate evaluation by Peer Assistance Services through the Colorado Pharmacists Recovery Network (CPRN) program or a comparable program approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as a condition for continuing in the school's PharmD program.

Consistent with the School’s Student Ethics and Conduct Code, students must notify the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, within seven calendar days, of the filing of any legal charges or proceedings and the disposition of such proceedings, wherein it is alleged that a student has violated any criminal law, including but not limited to “driving under the influence” and “driving while ability impaired”.

Policy on Substance Abuse
University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy
Any student found to have a substance abuse problem as determined through the evaluation process described above or by a court of law to have illegally used, possessed, attempted to possess, sold, transported, or distributed drugs or alcohol; or any student convicted upon a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a substance abuse related misdemeanor or felony, must, in addition to any requirements set by the Student Ethics and Conduct process, seek evaluation and recovery assistance through CPRN or a comparable approved program as a condition for continuing in the school's PharmD program. The Assistant Dean for Student and Professional Affairs of the School of Pharmacy shall direct the student to evaluation by Peer Assistance Services and shall monitor the student's status in recovery efforts, including application to an approved recovery program, acceptance or rejection of application to participate in the recovery program, active participation in the recovery program and successful completion or continuation in the recovery program while a student in the School of Pharmacy. The School of Pharmacy cannot guarantee confidentiality by programs or individuals external to the school once a student has contacted Peer Assistance Services or other recovery program.

Failure to comply with evaluation and treatment requirements will result in disciplinary action up to and including permanent expulsion from the PharmD program. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the School of Pharmacy may immediately suspend a pharmacy student who has unresolved or habitual substance abuse problems or who has been accepted to participate in the CPRN or comparable recovery program and fails to attend or complete that program.

For students suspended from the School of Pharmacy for a substance abuse related problem, reinstatement into the school requires evidence that successful, ongoing recovery efforts are being pursued through participation in the CPRN or comparable recovery program to the satisfaction of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Alcohol Use at School and Campus Functions

The school follows University Administrative Policy Statements on the use of alcohol at school and campus functions.

Drug Abuse Policy

In 1988, the US Congress enacted The Anti-Drug Abuse Act, requiring employers who contract with or receive grants from federal agencies to certify that they will meet certain requirements for providing a "drug-free work place." This act applies to all full or part-time employees and students of the university. Further, the University of Colorado prohibits the unlawful manufacture, dispensation, possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance. The possession, use or sale of illegal drugs, including non-prescribed narcotics or other controlled substances, is a violation not only of the law and university policies but also the School of Pharmacy Student Ethics and Conduct Code.

Drug Violations Penalties and Financial Aid Eligibility

Penalties for Drug Convictions

Ineligibility period for possession of illegal drugs (controlled substance):
  First offense: One year from the date of conviction
  Second offense: Two years from the date of conviction
  Third offense: Indefinite ineligibility from the date of conviction

Ineligibility period for sale of illegal drugs (controlled substance):
  First offense: Two years from date of conviction
  Second offense: Indefinite ineligibility from the date of conviction

Regaining Eligibility
Upon successful completion of a drug rehabilitation program, aid eligibility can be reinstated as of the
day the student completes the program successfully. It is the student's responsibility to notify the
Financial Aid Office that they have completed successfully the rehabilitation program. To be sufficient to
reinstate financial aid eligibility, the program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and
be recognized as a Federal, State, or local government agency program.

Approved:

Ralph J. Altiere, PhD
Dean, School of Pharmacy

01/18/11
Date