

California Medical Association Triclosan Antimicrobial Soap

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Resolution: 122-11

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WHEREAS, Triclosan is a common and increasingly used antimicrobial synthetic chemical used in many antimicrobial soaps in personal care products, household products and health care products; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has found that over 75% of Americans carry residues of Triclosan in 5 their bodies, and Triclosan also has been found in the breast milk, urine and plasma of those individuals who use these products; and

WHEREAS, Triclosan has been shown to be an endocrine disruptor that interferes with thyroid hormone homeostasis and the reproductive axis of both males and females; and

WHEREAS, Triclosan is highly toxic to algae and exerts reproductive and developmental effects in some fish; and

WHEREAS, Triclosan has been shown to resist biodegradation in wastewater and soil, thus causing great concern over cumulative toxicity in aquatic and soil ecosystems and where this contaminant has found its way into plants; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has stated that Triclosan has not been shown to be any more effective than regular soap and water, and contributes to the development of antibiotic cross-resistance in bacterial organisms and gram-negative organisms (for example, *Pseudomonas* and *Serratia* carry intrinsic resistance to Triclosan, and outbreaks of fatal gram-negative infections in hospital wards have been traced to Triclosan soap); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That CMA recognize the toxicity and potential adverse health and environmental effects of Triclosan-containing products and endorse efforts to eliminate this chemical from consumer and health care products; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CMA encourage the Food and Drug Administration to finalize the antimicrobial monograph first drafted in 1978 and updated in 1994 which found evidence for the safety and effectiveness of only alcohol and iodine-based topical products in health care use; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CMA encourage the education of members on the issue of the importance of proper hand hygiene and the preferential use of plain soap and water or

alcohol-based hand sanitizers in health care settings, consistent with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred for national action.