

Pharmacies as a Community Healthcare Resource



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Objectives



By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Identify when to partner with pharmacists in patient care
- Describe services available in community pharmacies
- List tools to make medications easier to take

Community Pharmacies



- 93% of Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy
- On average Adults in the US visit a pharmacy or store with a pharmacy 1.9 times per week
- Independent pharmacies, chain pharmacies, grocery stores, mass merchandizers
- Other locations with pharmacies include hospitals, LTC, etc.

Pharmacists



- Medication experts in the health care team
- 3rd most common health care providers
- 2nd most trusted professional
- The only professional who routinely give free advise
- Work in hospitals, clinics, community hospitals, LTC settings



The Pharmacy Degree



The Pharm.D. degree program requires...

At least **3 Years** of pre-pharmacy study

+ **4 Academic Years** of doctoral professional study

Post graduate training including residencies (optional)

The majority of pharmacy students enter the professional program with **4 OR MORE years of (pre-pharmacy) college experience**

Pharmacy Curriculum



The professional pharmacy curriculum is designed to educate pharmacists to...

- Counsel patients on the proper use of medications
- Promote public health
- Develop and manage medication distribution and control systems
- Initiate, modify and discontinue medications
- Plan and perform ongoing evaluations to provide patients with the best drug therapy for their individual health care needs.

What Do Pharmacists Do?



- Educate patients about prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Ensure the right patient gets the right medication at the right time for the right reason
- Advise other health care professionals on drug decisions for patients
- Provide patient care in pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, and other settings
- Prescribe and manage medications, vaccines, etc.

Role of Pharmacist is Expanding



- Dispensing has always been a key role of a pharmacist
- Roles are expanding to include public health
 - Immunizations
 - Contraception
 - Tobacco Cessation
- Chronic disease management
- Medication therapy management
- Collaborative practice agreements
 - Prescriptive authority

Patient-Pharmacist Relationship

- Face-to-face interaction is key to a therapeutic relationship
 - Facilitates exchange of necessary information
 - Optimizes patient's medication experience
- Community pharmacists **KNOW** their patients



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Care Available in Community Pharmacies



**OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
AND ACCESS CARE**

Screenings and Preventative Care

- Immunizations
- Blood Pressure
- Lipid screening
- Tobacco Cessation
- Contraception
- Emergency Contraception
- Naloxone
- Travel Medicine



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Acute Care



- **Clinical Community Pharmacists**
 - Refills of albuterol, contraception, epipens, etc
 - Burns
 - Animal Bites
 - Burns
 - Bladder Infection (for women)
 - Vaginal Yeast Infection
 - Etc



Pharmacist Consultation



- Pharmacists are the medication experts
- They are available for prescription and OTC questions
- Review medications for formulary concerns
 - Which medications to look for on formulary search
- What should I take for...
- Should I take, can I stop, side effects, when to take...

Comprehensive Medication Reviews



- Pharmacists are able to perform in depth medication reviews
- May charge for this service, or may be covered by insurance

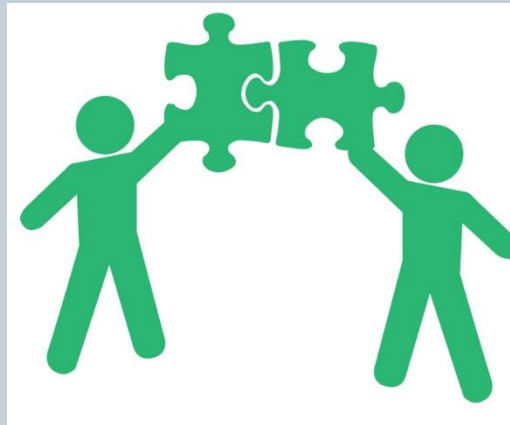


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What is a collaborative agreement?



- Contract between physician & pharmacist
- Defines scope of services pharmacist can provide
- Allows prescription initiation & management
- Requires pharmacist-physician consultations
- Extends and safeguards patient care



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Examples of CDTA Protocol Areas



- **Public Health**
 - Immunizations
 - Tobacco Cessation Therapy
 - Emergency Contraception
 - Contraception
 - Emergency Preparedness Antiviral Therapy
 - Tuberculosis Screening
 - Naloxone
 - Travel Medications
- **Chronic Disease Monitoring and Management**
 - Anticoagulation
 - Dyslipidemia
 - Diabetes
 - Hypertension
 - Asthma
 - Pain
 - Heart Failure
 - Comprehensive Medication Reviews

Impact on Care



- **Increased Access:**
 - Increased identification
 - More opportunity for education
 - Improved adherence to medications and medication management
 - Simplification of care for patients
- **Identify and Prevent Drug-Related Problems**
 - Billions of dollars of direct and indirect costs
- **Collaborative efforts with primary care providers and specialists reduces duplication and gaps in care**
- **Better chronic disease state management**
- **Unique knowledge and skills added to enhance drug treatment of patients**

SB 5557 Highlights: Pharmacists as Patient Care Providers



- Health plans recognize pharmacists as patient care providers for covered benefits.
 - Health plans required to include adequate number of pharmacists in their participating provider networks.
 - Includes services covered as essential health benefits requirements.
 - Inclusion of pharmacies in health plans' drug benefit networks do not satisfy new requirements.
 - In short, pharmacists will be treated the same as other providers.

Pharmacy Services



**REDUCING THE BURDEN OF TAKING
MEDICATIONS**

Services Available in Pharmacies



- Medication Compliance Packaging
- Medication Synchronization
 - Pick up all your medications at the same time
- Medication Take Back (Disposal Boxes)

Medication Safety



WHAT CAN PATIENT'S DO?

Are all those meds needed?

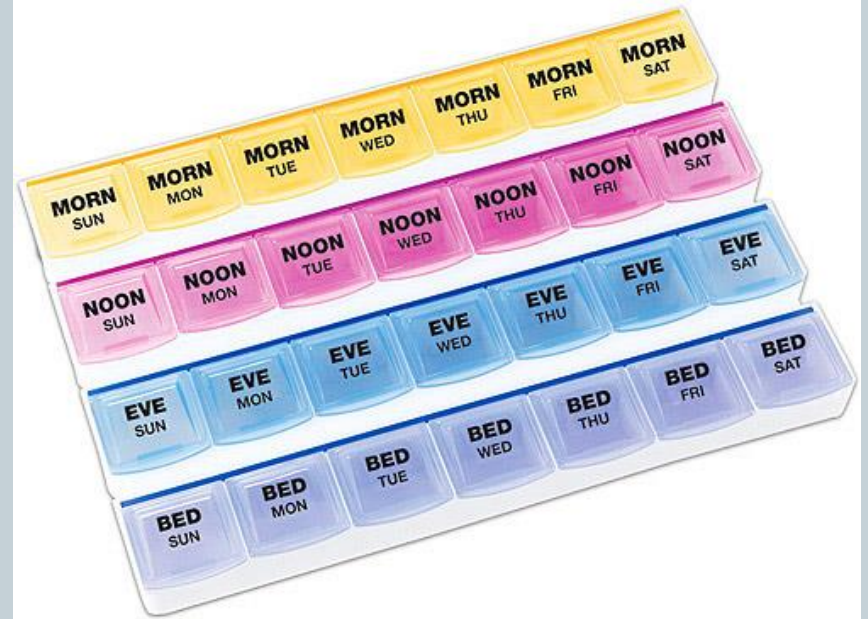


- **Revisit your medications**
 - Some medications should be discontinued, or decreased as you age
 - Talk with your pharmacist and providers about goals of therapy, side effects, etc
- **If a medication doesn't seem to help, you may not need it!**
- **Just because you can't feel it helping doesn't mean it's not helping!**

Medisets



- **Med box**
 - Set up a week at a time
 - Decreases the burden of opening multiple bottles every day
 - You can see how many doses you missed
 - Set up a week ahead of time, then you have an emergency supply



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Medication Synchronization



- Aligned refill times – reduces the trips to the pharmacy
- Meet with the pharmacist monthly to review medications



How to Find a Great Pharmacy



Finding a Match



- Insurance Coverage – is your pharmacy in the plan?
 - Really?
- Hours of Operation and Convenience
 - Mail order may be more convenient
- Pharmacists on Staff
 - Is it easy to talk with them?
 - Are you comfortable
- Services that you need
 - Working on a searchable map

Signs patients need help...



**HOW TO KNOW IF PATIENTS NEED EXTRA
MEDICATION HELP**



**Tell the person
next to you ...**



When patients might need help



- They can't tell you why they take meds
- They don't know when they should take meds
- There are pill bottles and pills scattered around their house
- They take more than a few meds and don't have a list or med box
- They are overwhelmed by their medications
- There are half tablets when their shouldn't be, old pill bottles mixed with new, etc

Summary



- In short, better use of a pharmacist's expertise improves patient outcomes, prevents patient harm and lowers health care costs.
- Pharmacists are partners in patient care
- Know your pharmacist!
- Make your medications and pharmacy work for you!

Questions?



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