

## The pharmacist in focus of drug management therapy

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### Introduction

Pharmacists are highly educated healthcare professionals who provide a wide range of health services to enhance the care of individual patients in the communities they serve. Pharmacists provide management of drug therapy through drug safety monitoring programs, where they play an important role in preventing drug errors and adverse events. Improving the safety of the drug delivery system as a whole is crucial to achieving optimal therapeutic outcomes for patients. From reporting errors and side effects to collecting data and identifying the safety of drugs on a large scale. Pharmacists are opening up new avenues for drug-related safety. Areas in which pharmacists play a key role are: development, utilization and standardization of risk evaluation and mitigation strategies (REMS), program of drugs or biological preparations that present specific safety risks for patients, optimization of the balance of patient access and safety of drugs.

### Drug management therapy

Medication-related problems and medication mismanagement are a global, massive public health problem. Experts estimate that a million preventable adverse events occur each year that result in injury and death.

Pharmacotherapy consults refer to services provided by pharmacists on referral from other health care providers or other pharmacists. These consult services are typically reserved for more complicated patient cases, specifically for patients who have complex medical conditions and who

have either already experienced medication related problems or who are at high potential to develop them (Stewart et al., 2019). A pharmacotherapy consult incorporates the pharmacist's expertise into achieving desired therapeutic goals for patients by promoting safe, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medications. Patients requiring pharmacotherapy consults may have a single or multiple complex medical conditions that require medication therapy to effectively manage. Pharmacists providing these services typically have advanced expertise and training in the subject area and may be Board Certified in their specialty by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (Medication-management services, 2019).

Drug therapy management, also known as MTM, is a term used to describe a wide range of health services provided by pharmacists, drug experts on the health care team. In 2005, the pharmaceutical profession developed a consensus definition for MTM. In 2008, version 2.0 of the Drug Essentials Management Service module detailed MTM's service model in pharmaceutical practice which includes the following five basic elements:

- Drug Therapy Review (MTR)
- Personal Drug Records (PMR)
- Drug-Related Action Plan (MAP)
- Intervention and / or referral
- Documentation and monitoring (ACCP white paper, 2008).

Every basic element is composed of MTM security; however, the order and delivery of the essential elements can be modified to meet the needs of the individual patient. Pharmacists provide drug therapy management to help patients reap the best benefits of their drugs by actively

managing drug therapy and by identifying, preventing, and resolving drug-related problems. The components of pharmaceutical management are four interrelated key functions: selection, procurement, distribution and use. Management support systems include: organization, funding and sustainability, information management, human resource management and policy, law and regulation supported by the Ministry of Health.

### **Where is medication therapy management provided?**

Pharmacists provide medication therapy management services in all care settings in which patients take medications. While pharmacists in different settings may provide different types of medication therapy management services, the goal of all pharmacists providing medication therapy management is to make sure that the medication is right for the patient and his or her health conditions and that the best possible outcomes from treatment are achieved (Ferreri et al., 2020).

### **Who have benefits from medication therapy management?**

Anyone who uses prescription medications, non-prescription medications, herbals, or other dietary supplements may potentially benefit from medication therapy management services. People who may benefit the most include those who use several medications, those who have several health conditions, those who have questions or problems with their medications, those who are taking medications that require close monitoring, those who have been hospitalized, and those who obtain their medications from more than one pharmacy. Pharmacotherapy consults refer to services provided by pharmacists on referral from other health care providers or other pharmacists. These consult services are typically reserved for more complicated patient cases, specifically for patients who have complex medical conditions and who have either already experienced medication related problems or who are at high potential to develop them. A pharmacotherapy consult incorporates the pharmacist's expertise into achieving desired therapeutic goals for patients by promoting safe, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medications. Patients requiring pharmacotherapy consults may have a single or multiple complex medical conditions that require medication therapy to effectively manage. Pharmacists providing these services typically have advanced expertise and training in the subject area and may be Board Certified in their specialty by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (McBane et al., 2015).

The medication therapy review is a systematic process of collecting patient-specific information, assessing medication therapies to identify medication-related problems, developing a prioritized list of medication-related problems, and creating a plan to resolve them. Medication therapy reviews are one of the five Medication Therapy Management Core Elements Service Model Version 2.0 1 these reviews can be comprehensive or targeted to an actual or potential medication problem. Whether comprehensive or targeted, the individual patient's medications are evaluated in the context of the patient as a whole, taking into consideration all of the patient's conditions and medication therapies (Center for Medicine and Medicaid, 2020)

### **Conclusion**

Any patient using prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, herbal products or dietary supplements can potentially benefit from drug therapy management services. Patients who use more than one medication, have multiple health conditions, have questions or problems with their medication use, take medication that requires careful monitoring, or have been hospitalized may benefit most. Pharmacists provide a wide range of healthcare to enhance the care of individual patients in the communities they serve. These services help address the critical need to improve the overall health and well-being of the population

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