

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Home Healthcare: Statement on the Role of the Pharmacist (1998)



Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
Société canadienne des pharmaciens d'hôpitaux

Home Healthcare: Statement on the Role of the Pharmacist

Published by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP), Ottawa, Ontario. 1998 edition. Use of this document was approved by CSHP Council in 1998.

Suggested citation:

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Home healthcare: statement on the role of the pharmacist. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists; 1998.

© Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists 1998

This paper was retired by the CSHP Board in April 2018. Though its content is considered outdated, the paper is made available so that readers have access to information that is suitable for referencing or conducting historical research.

If you are interested in a current version of this paper, please check CSHP's website: there is no guarantee that such a version exists.

All rights reserved. Publications of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists can be obtained from:

30 Concourse Gate, Unit 3
Ottawa ON K2E 7V7
Telephone: 613.736.9733
Fax: 613.736.5660
Internet: www.cshp.ca

An electronic copy of this document is available, for personal use, to:

- members of CSHP, at CSHP's website: www.cshp.ca
- non-members of CSHP at a cost, by contacting the Publications Administrator at the above address

Requests for permission to reproduce or translate CSHP publications – whether for sale or for non-commercial distribution – should be addressed to the CSHP Publications Administrator using the above contact information.

This publication represents the view of Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists and was approved after careful consideration of the evidence available. All reasonable precautions have been taken by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists to verify the information contained in this publication.

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists is not a regulation-setting organization.

This published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. Although the intended primary application of this publication is stated in its introduction, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the user of the publication to judge its suitability for his or her particular purpose within the context of his or her practice and the applicable legislative framework. In no event shall the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists or any persons involved in the development and review of this publication be liable for damages arising from its use.

CSHP Official Publications are subject to periodic review, and suggestions for their improvement are welcomed. Where more than one version of a publication exists, the most recent version replaces the former version(s). Users of the CSHP's publications are advised to check CSHP's website for the most recent version of any publication.

All inquiries regarding this publication, including requests for interpretation, should be addressed to the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists using the above contact information.

RETIRED

Home Healthcare: Statement on the Role of the Pharmacist

THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF CANADIANS INCLUDE ORGANIZED, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES. HOME HEALTH CARE HAS EVOLVED FROM EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE HIGH COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRADITIONAL INPATIENT SERVICES, WHILE MAINTAINING OR IMPROVING THE CARE OF THE PATIENT.

Home health care encompasses the provision of health care services and education to patients in their home. This expansion of health care delivery into the ambulatory and home setting has created a need for the provision of supportive pharmacy services. The goal of such services is the responsible provision of drug therapy and related information for the purpose of achieving outcomes that maintain or improve a patient's quality of life.

Pharmacists practicing in all health care settings have the potential to provide home health care programs involving distributive, clinical, consultative, advisory and educational functions. Pharmaceutical service standards relevant to the home health care program should be developed for use in providing such a program.

Each program needs established policies and procedures to address safe control and handling of pharmaceuticals and supplies. The provider will need to develop costing and reimbursement procedures prior to implementation of such services. Pharmacists may need to communicate with government and other health care agencies about the needs for the program and the resources required.

Pharmacists should be involved in the following areas:

- a) initial patient assessment;
- b) education, training and counselling of the patient and caregiver, and health professionals and the general public;
- c) selection of products, devices and associated supplies;
- d) coordination of drug preparation, delivery, storage and administration;

- e) development and implementation of patient care plans and continued monitoring and assessment; and,
- f) participation in quality improvement activities, e.g., adverse drug reaction reporting, medication errors, unexpected discontinuation of therapy.

Pharmacists should participate in ongoing continuing education activities to improve their knowledge and skills related to home care.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

American Society of Hospital Pharmacists. The Pharmacist's Role in Home Care. Bethesda, Maryland, 1993.

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Guidelines for the Role of the Pharmacist in the Health Care Institution. Ottawa, Ontario, 1995.

Hepler CD, Strand LM. Opportunities and Responsibilities in Pharmaceutical Care. Am J. Hosp Pharm 1990; 47:533-542

Hoffman RP. Get Ready for the New Home Care Standards Hosp Pharm 1989; 24:312-314

Lamy PP, Feinberg M. The Two Faces of Home Care. California J. Hosp Pharm 1989; 1:4-8

Posey LM. Community-based Long-term Care: Marketing for the Future. Consultant pharmacist 1988; Nov/Dec:507-516

A White Paper on the Establishment and Elaboration of Clinical Pharmacy Services. Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, Toronto, Ontario April 1990.

CSHP Mission:

CSHP is the national voice of pharmacists committed to the advancement of safe, effective medication use and patient care in hospitals and related healthcare settings.

