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## Pharmaceutical Care: Statement (2001)



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

## Pharmaceutical Care: Statement

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# Pharmaceutical Care: Statement

**CSHP ENDORSES THE CONCEPT OF PHARMACEUTICAL CARE WHICH INCLUDES AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT, THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PATIENT OR THEIR AGENT IN DETERMINING THE DRUG-RELATED PROBLEMS REQUIRING THE PHARMACIST'S ATTENTION AND EFFORT. A DRUG RELATED PROBLEM IS DEFINED AS AN ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL SIGN OR SYMPTOM WHICH IS RELATED TO DRUG THERAPY, AND IS UNDESIRABLE TO THE PATIENT.**

Pharmaceutical Care is the responsible provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes. The process of pharmaceutical care involves designing, implementing and monitoring a therapeutic plan, based on the patient's needs.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, this involves:

- a) Identifying potential or actual drug-related problems;
- b) Resolving actual drug-related problems; and
- c) Preventing potential drug-related problems.

The primary goal of pharmacists should be to improve the quality of life of individual patients through activities which ensure individual patients are receiving drug therapy to achieve the desired outcomes. These outcomes are defined as:

- a) cure of a disease;
- b) elimination or reduction of a patient's symptomatology;
- c) arresting or slowing of a disease process; and
- d) preventing a disease or symptomatology.<sup>1</sup>

The activities of the pharmacist may be described by the following steps:<sup>2</sup>

1. Establish the patient-pharmacist relationship;
2. Collect, synthesize, and interpret the relevant information;
3. List and rank the patient's drug-related issues;
4. Establish a desired pharmacotherapeutic outcome for each drug-related issue;
5. Determine feasible pharmacotherapeutic alternatives;
6. Choose the "best" pharmacotherapeutic solution and individualize the therapeutic regimen;
7. Design a therapeutic drug monitoring plan;

8. Implement the individualized regimen and monitoring plan; and
9. Follow up to measure success in individual cases and in long-term implementation.

Pharmacists also have professional and societal responsibilities. Professional responsibility includes participating in policy and procedure development for the provision of pharmacy services, the education of pharmacists and other health care professionals, and research related to patient care or therapeutic problems in general. Societal responsibilities include participation in health promotion, public education, appropriate resource utilization, research, and development of standards of care. However, the pharmacist's primary responsibility is to assist individual patients to achieve their desired outcome(s).

## LITERATURE CITED

1. Hepler CD, Strand LM. Opportunities and responsibilities in pharmaceutical care. *Am J Hosp Pharm* 1990; 47: 533-43.
2. Direct Patient Care Curriculum. Pharmaceutical Care Education Modules, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, Ottawa, Ontario, 1997.

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.

