

HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS



INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF THE HEALTHCARE TEAM

Pharmacists – trusted and valued members of the healthcare team – work closely with patients, physicians, nurses, and other health professionals to ensure that medication use is safe and effective, by:

- partnering with patients to help them achieve their desired health goals and outcomes
- contributing to the development of treatment plans through participation in patient care rounds
- liaising with other healthcare providers to enable smooth transitions of care as patients move from one place of care to another, such as from hospital to home
- working with the patient and others (e.g., healthcare providers, insurance companies) to help patients obtain medications after discharge
- recommending alternative therapies and dosage forms for patients
- educating pharmacy students and other healthcare professionals
- conducting and supporting research

Research shows that having a pharmacist as part of the healthcare team results in better health outcomes, improved patient safety, and reduced healthcare costs.

Better health outcomes

Fewer emergency visits

Lower readmission rate

Shorter length of stay

Improved indicators of health (e.g., lower blood pressure, improved blood sugar control, lower cholesterol)

Improved patient safety

Fewer overall and preventable medication safety incidents

Fewer medication incidents and hospitalizations

Reduced healthcare costs

Pharmacist interventions lead to cost savings (e.g., changing to a less expensive route of administration) and cost avoidance (e.g., preventing adverse events)

For every \$1 spent on a pharmacist's salary, between \$4 and \$5 in hospital costs are saved or avoided

