



The Vital Role of Health System Pharmacists

Health System Pharmacists: Who We Are

The primary role of a health systems pharmacy is to work with physicians, nurses, other healthcare professionals and patients to determine appropriate medication and dosage, as well as provide side effect monitoring and follow up. Medication management also includes:



Our Expanding Responsibilities in Healthcare



Patient Advocacy

We champion safe, effective, and equitable patient care by providing education and communication through a culture of transparency and trust.



Clinical Judgment and Evidence-Based Medicine

Clinical judgement and evidence-based medicine inform our therapeutic decision making. Review and monitor for adverse effects or potential drug interactions.



Compounding

As hospital pharmacists, we are responsible for the compounding of many pharmaceutical products for patient administration.



Keeping Up to Date

We monitor for changes in medication usage and new developments that may occur.



Drug Supply Management

We are responsible for monitoring the supply of all medicines used in the health system — as well as purchasing, manufacturing, dispensing, and quality-testing medication stock with help from pharmacy assistants and technicians.



Providing Care in Emergency Situations

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as health system pharmacists we provided vaccine clinics and testing sites, procured therapies, and managed rapidly changing guidelines.



Beyond the Hospital

The impact of health system pharmacists reaches beyond the hospital walls as we expand roles to coordinate care, manage medication-related outreach to the community, and identify appropriate therapies.

Expanded Role of Pharmacy Technicians

Pharmacy technicians have also expanded their roles and proficiency in a variety of tasks.

Technician Coordination Operator

Meets the needs of patients in critical care by implementing new processes quickly. Supports medication reconciliation and discharge medication planning.

Pharmacy Communication and Analytics Coordinator

Aimed at arming staff and other departments with pertinent communications. Supports budget and actual spend analytics.

Drug Shortage Management Coordinator

Centralizes the task of obtaining critically needed medications for the entire health system. Works with manufacturer and distribution supplier to maintain inventory.