

# The evolving role of clinical and hospital pharmacists in patient-centered care.

Mona Zellars\*

Department of Radiation Oncology, Indiana University, Indiana

## Introduction

Clinical and hospital pharmacists play a crucial role in healthcare, ensuring that patients receive safe and effective medication therapy. Over the past few decades, their role has evolved from simply dispensing medications to being integral members of the healthcare team, actively involved in patient-centered care. This article explores the expanding responsibilities of clinical and hospital pharmacists and their impact on improving patient outcomes [1]. Patient-centered care is a healthcare approach that emphasizes the involvement of patients in their own care, ensuring that their preferences, needs, and values are respected. Clinical and hospital pharmacists are increasingly recognized as key contributors to this model, as they bring specialized knowledge of medications and their effects on individual patients [2].

Clinical pharmacists work closely with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to optimize medication therapy for patients. They are involved in the entire continuum of care, from admission to discharge, ensuring that medication regimens are appropriate, effective, and safe. One of the primary responsibilities of clinical pharmacists is to conduct medication therapy management (MTM) [3]. This process involves reviewing patients' medication histories, identifying potential drug interactions, and recommending adjustments to therapy. By doing so, clinical pharmacists help prevent adverse drug reactions and improve therapeutic outcomes. Clinical pharmacists also play a vital role in educating patients about their medications. They provide counseling on proper medication use, potential side effects, and the importance of adherence [4].

This education empowers patients to take an active role in their treatment, which is a cornerstone of patient-centered care. Hospital pharmacists oversee the procurement, storage, and distribution of medications within the hospital setting. Their role is critical in maintaining the integrity of the medication supply chain and ensuring that medications are available when needed [5]. In addition to their traditional responsibilities, hospital pharmacists are increasingly involved in clinical activities. They participate in multidisciplinary rounds, where they collaborate with other healthcare professionals to develop and implement treatment plans. Hospital pharmacists also contribute to the development of hospital policies and protocols related to medication use, helping to standardize practices and improve patient safety [6].

One of the emerging areas of focus for hospital pharmacists is antimicrobial stewardship. This involves optimizing the use of antibiotics to combat the growing problem of antibiotic resistance. By promoting the appropriate use of antibiotics, hospital pharmacists help reduce the spread of resistant bacteria and improve patient outcomes. The involvement of clinical and hospital pharmacists in patient care has been shown to have a positive impact on patient outcomes [7]. Studies have demonstrated that pharmacist-led interventions, such as medication reconciliation and patient counseling, can reduce hospital readmission rates, decrease medication errors, and improve overall patient satisfaction. Moreover, the integration of pharmacists into healthcare teams has been associated with cost savings. By preventing adverse drug events and optimizing medication therapy, pharmacists help reduce healthcare costs associated with complications and hospitalizations [8].

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of clinical and hospital pharmacists, challenges remain. The healthcare system must continue to support the integration of pharmacists into patient care teams, providing them with the resources and training needed to fulfill their expanded roles [9]. Additionally, the adoption of technology, such as electronic health records (EHRs) and telepharmacy, presents both opportunities and challenges. While these tools can enhance the efficiency of pharmacists, they also require careful implementation to ensure that they complement, rather than hinder, patient care [10].

## Conclusion

Clinical and hospital pharmacists are essential contributors to patient-centered care, bringing their expertise in medication management to the forefront of healthcare. As their roles continue to evolve, they will play an increasingly important role in improving patient outcomes and ensuring the safe and effective use of medications. By embracing these changes, the healthcare system can further enhance the quality of care provided to patients.

## References

1. Shrestha S, Shakya D, Palaian S. Clinical pharmacy education and practice in Nepal: A glimpse into present challenges and potential solutions. *Adv Med Educ Pract*. 2020;541-8.

\*Correspondence to: Mona Zellars, Department of Radiation Oncology, Indiana University, Indiana. E-mail: [Mona@Zellars.edu](mailto:Mona@Zellars.edu)

Received: 01-July-2024, Manuscript No. AABPS-24-145584; Editor assigned: 02-July-2024, Pre QC No. AABPS-24-145584 (PQ); Reviewed: 15-July-2024, QC No. AABPS-24-145584; Revised: 19-July-2024, Manuscript No. AABPS-24-145584(R); Published: 26-July-2024, DOI: 10.35841/aabps-14.106.247

2. King PK, Burkhardt C, Rafferty A, et al. Quality measures of clinical pharmacy services during transitions of care. *J Ameri Colle Clini Pharm.* 2021;4(7):883-907.
3. Garattini L, Padula A, Freemantle N. Do European pharmacists really have to trespass on medicine?. *Eur J Health Econ.* 2021 Feb;22:1-4.
4. He W, Hu Y, Yao D, et al. Building a Hospital Pharmacist Workforce by a Diversified and Position-Oriented Learning System. *J Multidiscip Healthc.* 2024:2989-97.
5. Wernli U, Hischer D, Meier CR, et al. Pharmacists' clinical roles and activities in inpatient hospice and palliative care: A scoping review. *Int J Clin Pharm.* 2023;45(3):577-86.
6. de Castro Araújo-Neto F, Dosea AS, da Fonseca FL, et al. Perceptions of formal pharmacy leadership on the social role of the profession and its historical evolution: A qualitative study. *Explor Res Clin Soc Pharm.* 2024;13:100405.
7. Spears J, Erkens J, Misquitta C, et al. A pharmacist-led, patient-centered program incorporating motivational interviewing for behavior change to improve adherence rates and star ratings in a medicare plan. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm.* 2020;26(1):35-41.
8. Kasnakova P, Ivanova S. Patient-centered approach to pharmaceutical care in the recovery of patients with post-COVID syndrome. *Pharmacia.* 2021;68:381-5.
9. Takamura K, Tachibana K, Kihira T, et al. Legislation on the roles of the pharmacist and pharmacy in the revision of the pharmaceutical and medical device act and the pharmacists act in Japan. *Therap Innov Regula Sci.* 2021;55:304-8.
10. Moreau JL, Hamilton AB, Yano EM, et al. The impact of job role on health-care workers' definitions of patient-centered care. *J Patient Exp.* 2020;7(6):1634-41.