

Implementation of a pharmacist enhancement training program and its impact

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Background: Pharmacists are members of the patient care team, responsible for overseeing optimal, safe, and cost-effective pharmacotherapy to improve patient care. The American College of Clinical Pharmacists (ACCP) and Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) outline recommendations for pharmacy practice, ranging from fundamental (drug distribution, prospective evaluation of drug safety and efficacy, etc.) to optimal services (providing formal educational services, etc.). These guidelines promote the advancement of the specialist role, but can serve as the framework to promote overall pharmacist development.

Objective: The objective of this study was to quantify and evaluate pharmacist dual responsibilities.

Methods: A novel, voluntary skills enhancement program was implemented at a community hospital pharmacy. Didactic material, advanced training (e.g. Board

Certification, ACLS), formal and informal mentorship were provided. Concurrent with dispensing functions, pharmacists participated in multi-disciplinary patient care teams, emergency responses, and patient counseling activities. Data was collected using a web-based documentation tool. Descriptive statistics were used to evaluate interventions, including patient education, healthcare provider education, adverse medication events prevented as well as turnaround time and other pharmacy metrics.

Conclusion: The pharmacist enhancement program expanded skillset positively affected outcome measures and improved healthcare delivery within our facility

Biography

Mona Philips received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Degree in 1987 from Long Island University School of Pharmacy; Brooklyn, New York. She received Master's in Administrative Science Degree in 2003 from Farleigh Dickinson University; Teaneck, New Jersey. She is currently employed as the Director of Pharmacy in Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville, New Jersey. She serves on a multitude of Committees within the hospital and serve as a pharmacy preceptor, leader, and mentor to many pharmacists, students and pharmacy residents. She started a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program in 2006 with one resident and has expanded the program to two residents in 2014.

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