

# ROLE OF PHARMACIST IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

## Pharmacist

- A pharmacist is a specialized healthcare provider trained to manage, store, prepare, and distribute a variety of medications.
- Pharmacists play an essential role in healthcare systems globally, collaborating with other healthcare providers to enhance patient care, promote medication safety, and achieve better health outcome.
- Professionals include in Health care system
  - A. Direct professional**
    - Pharmacist
    - Physician/doctors
    - Nurses
    - Compounder
    - Dispenser
  - B. Indirect professional**
    - Engineers
    - Teachers
    - Lay person
- While various professionals contribute minor roles in the healthcare system, but only pharmacists play a major role.

## Types of pharmacists

- 1) Community pharmacist** These pharmacists are employed in community (retail) pharmacies where their primary responsibilities include dispensing medications and providing patients with education about their prescriptions, medical conditions, over-the-counter medications, and related topics.
- 2) Clinical Pharmacists** Pharmacists in clinical settings, such as clinics, hospitals, or other healthcare facilities, are known as clinical pharmacists. Their role often involves delivering direct patient care, offering medication recommendations, and monitoring or adjusting dosages as required during treatment. Additionally, they may engage in administering medical tests or educating patients.

- 3) **Consultant Pharmacists** Pharmacists provide consulting services to hospitals, insurance companies, and various healthcare facilities, aimed at enhancing pharmacy services. Additionally, they may engage directly with patients to provide consultation on topics like prescription management.
- 4) **Pharmaceutical Industry Pharmacists** Pharmacists in the pharmaceutical industry typically have minimal interaction with patients, focusing instead on roles such as research and development of new medications, as well as involvement in areas like sales and marketing.

### Various Roles Of Pharmacist In Healthcare System:

- I. **Community pharmacist**
  - Dispense medication
  - Ensure the quality of medicines
  - Maintain accurate records
  - Participate in public health initiatives
- II. **Consultant pharmacist**
  - Providing professional advice regarding patient's medication
  - Verifying propriety of prescribed medications
  - Ensuring the appropriate use of medicines
  - Monitoring the use of medicine within a specialist area
  - Teaching and training junior pharmacists.
- III. **Pharmaceutical Industry Pharmacists**
  - **Research & development**

Pharmacists play a significant role in research, particularly in the biological sciences, leveraging their expertise in formulating new substances. Pharmacists ensure a comprehensive approach to quality by applying their deep understanding of pharmaceutical sciences. This includes validating different production phases and testing products before distribution, ensuring adherence to good manufacturing practices.
  - **Management & administration**

Pharmacists possess the knowledge and expertise to offer comprehensive information about medications to healthcare professionals and the public. Additionally, they provide an information service within the company.

- **Patent applications & drug registration**

Pharmacists are well-equipped to understand and compile the diverse information necessary for successful and lawful drug registration and parental application submissions for authorizations.

- **Clinical trials and post marketing surveillance**

The chemist's possession of the essential medical and drug knowledge facilitates collaboration between clinical trials and surveillance, topics of interest to businesses, healthcare professionals, and governments alike.

- **Sales & marketing**

The chemist, guided by ethical obligations to prioritize patients' interests, can aid in developing appropriate marketing strategies for health services and disseminating pertinent information to both the public and healthcare professionals.

- **Production & marketing of drug**

- **Quality control**

- **Regulatory affairs**

#### IV. **Clinical pharmacists**

- **Providing guidance to other healthcare professionals**

- Working collaboratively in multidisciplinary teams to deliver patient services.
- Offering advice on suitable medications, dosages, and administration.

- **Engaging directly with patients**

- Being authorized to prescribe medications.
- Delivering personalized, in-person medication guidance.
- Educating patients about lifestyle modifications for chronic conditions such as hypertension, asthma, and arthritis.
- Performing health assessments like blood pressure monitoring and arranging additional tests.

- **Monitoring patient progress**

- Examining patient records to evaluate health and assess conditions.
- Verifying the effectiveness and appropriateness of prescribed medications.
- Observing the interactions of various medications.

- Developing a holistic view of an individual's health to determine ongoing interventions.
- **Contributing to research and development**
  - Collaborating with healthcare professionals to shape the future of patient care.
  - Evaluating outcomes of pharmaceutical treatments.
  - Participating in clinical trials and conducting medical tests.
  - Advancing medicine through research and development initiatives.
- **Ward rounds**
  - Hospital pharmacists typically offer their clinical services to wards through regular visits, during which they identify and address any medication-related problems (MRPs) with suitable interventions.
- **Inpatient medication review**
  - Through medication reviews, hospital pharmacists can identify any medication-related problems (MRPs) and collaborate with other healthcare professionals to devise recommendations aimed at resolving these issues.
  - The pharmacist has the opportunity to conduct interviews with patients and engage in direct discussions with the prescriber regarding any lingering medication-related problems (MRPs).
- **Medicines use review**
  - Emphasizing the importance of reviewing patients' medication usage for appropriateness before promoting adherence is crucial. This is especially relevant for elderly patients who may be taking multiple medications, as adherence without proper review could lead to adverse consequences.
  - Medicines use review (MUR) entails a confidential dialogue between a pharmacist and a patient aimed at enhancing the patient's understanding, adherence, and utilization of medications.
  - MURs additionally offer pharmacists the chance to evaluate a patient's pharmacotherapy, encompassing both prescribed medications and over-the-counter (OTC) remedies.
  - Pharmacists have the ability to identify medications that a patient may be neglecting, as well as potentially

inappropriate medications, aiding in the reduction of wastage and the optimization of care.

- **Pharmacovigilance**

- Pharmacist plays a crucial role in medication safety monitoring. Pharmacists can be assigned roles to help monitor the safe and effective utilization of available medications, encompassing the management of adverse drug reactions. Pharmacists play a crucial role in creating communication materials such as newsletters and publications through drug information and poison centers. These materials are utilized by various professions and professionals to distribute drug alerts and other essential drug safety information.

- **Role of CRC/CRA**

- **Study Planning and Setup**

Clinical research coordinators (CRCs) work alongside investigators to develop study protocols, preparing essential documentation such as consent forms and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards for all materials.

- **Participant Recruitment and Screening** CRCs have the responsibility of identifying and enrolling eligible participants, conducting pre-screening interviews to verify that candidates meet the study criteria.

- **Data Collection and Management** Ensuring precise data collection stands as a cornerstone of their duties. CRCs supervise data gathering, upkeep databases, and maintain data integrity throughout the study.

- **Regulatory Compliance**

They ensure adherence to regulatory and ethical standards across all study facets, which involves submitting requisite documents to institutional review boards (IRBs) and safeguarding patient confidentiality.

- **Patient Care and Communication**

CRCs frequently act as the primary contact for participants, offering study details, responding to inquiries, and addressing any concerns they may have.

- **Coordination with Other Professionals**

They collaborate closely with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to facilitate the smooth and efficient conduct of the study.

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