

Role of Pharm D in patient centered care

In 2008, the first batch of Pharm D was introduced in India. Pharm D is short form of “Doctor of Pharmacy.” It is a six year program after 10+2 which includes five years of academic study and one year of internship. It is a multidisciplinary curriculum which trains students to work in various fields of the health care industry, be it clinical research, medical affairs, as clinical pharmacists or academicians. The course is designed to minimize the work-load of physicians as well as the load on Indian health-care system.

Role of a Pharm D professional in patient care:

- Medication therapy management:

Therapeutic drug monitoring- Designing patient-specific drug dosage regimens based on the pharmacokinetic and pharmacologic characteristics of the drug products used, the objectives of drug therapy, concurrent diseases and drug therapy, and other pertinent patient factors (e.g., demographics, laboratory data) that improve the safety and effectiveness of drug therapy and promote positive patient outcomes.

- Patient counseling:

Counselling the patient about various important and necessary things like medication use, expected side effects, course of therapy and outcomes, interactions, lifestyle modifications, and disease management.

- Adherence counseling:

Identifying and addressing barriers to adherence and developing strategies to improve compliance. Making sure that the patients complete their treatment.

- Role as clinical pharmacist:

Reporting and management of adverse drug events, medication history interview, and participation in ward rounds.

- Management of all types of interactions:

- Drug- Drug interactions
- Drug- food interactions
- Drug- chemical interactions
- Drug- supplement interactions
- Drug- disease interactions

This is done by monitoring, reporting and counselling.

- Medication error management:

To monitor and prevent errors during transition between different care settings.

Types of medication errors-

- Prescribing error
- Dispensing error
- Administration error
- Monitoring error

- Drug information:

Providing drug and poison information to health care professionals and answering all their queries.

- Antimicrobial Stewardship:

Implementing strategies to ensure appropriate use of antibiotic resistance, reducing the transmission of infections, and educating health professionals, patients, and the public.

- Critical care:

In Intensive care units continuous monitoring is required which increases the work load on other healthcare professionals. A Critical care pharmacist can monitor and address adverse drug events caused due to drug-related problems and medication errors. This improves the appropriateness, quality of prescribing and increases patient safety.

- Education and advocacy:

-Educational activities for health care professionals and patients including delivery of educational presentations, workshops, and sessions on medication safety, chronic disease management, and healthy lifestyle choices.

-Promoting safe medication practices within healthcare systems and advocating for patient safety initiatives.

- Public health:

Participating in public health initiatives related to medication access and misuse, immunization programs, and health camps.