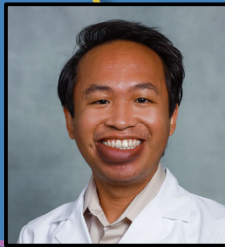




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The Role of the PharmD as part of the Ambulatory Care Team

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Disclosure

Troy Cisneros, MD, Jonathan Ignacio, MD, MPH and Natalie Thom, MD have no relevant financial conflicts of interest related to this activity.



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Learning Objectives

- Review the history of Clinical Pharmacy and specialties within Pharmacy practice
- Map the educational process of becoming a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Describe the functions and contributions of a PharmD, within residency program learning experiences
- Recognize clinical challenges for implementing a PharmD within practice settings
- Explore future directions of PharmDs in the ambulatory care setting



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Common Scenarios in the Ambulatory Care Setting



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Have you ever heard your patient say...

- "I'm not sure what medications I'm taking. I take so many of them. Sometimes I have a hard time keeping track of them."
- "I went to go pick up my medication and it's \$500."
- "Is there something else you can prescribe that my insurance *WILL* cover?"
- "I have no idea why I'm taking that medication."
- "I went to the pharmacy to pick up my medication and the pharmacist says it isn't covered/not available for pick up."
- "When I left the hospital they changed all of my medications around. I don't know which ones I'm supposed to be taking now."



Evolution of Pharmacy in the Ambulatory Care Setting



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1952: American Pharmaceutical Association (APA) code of ethics prohibits pharmacists from discussing medications with patients (repealed 1969)



VA develops guidelines for “clinical pharmacy specialists”



2003: Collaborative Disease Therapy Management (CDTM) & Medicare Modernization Act



1950

1975

2000

2023



Independent community pharmacies & small hospital pharmacies



1972: Indian Health Service develops “pharmacy practitioners”



1999: American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP)



2010: Affordable Care Act & 2012: CDC



Pathway to Becoming a PharmD



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Doctor of Pharmacy timeline:

- 2-4 years of prerequisite work & 4 years professional school
- North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination & Board certifications
- PGY-1: general competencies
- **PGY-2: focus on a specific area of outpatient practice**
 - **Areas of focus: ambulatory care, cardiology, neurology, pediatric, geriatric, psychiatric, and pain management & palliative care.**
- Fellowship: postgraduate training in research in a specific area.



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Core Functions



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Scope of PharmD in Ambulatory Care Team

- During scheduled visits, evaluating patients for baseline knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors regarding medical conditions, medications, and medication use
- Ordering tests related to monitoring the safety and/or efficacy of drug therapy
- Identifying medication-related barriers to attaining treatment goals and formulating individualized plans to resolve these barriers through shared decision making with patients
- Consulting with other members of the health care team and referring patients per referral criteria
- Initiating, adjusting, and discontinuing therapy based on recommended guidelines



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Scope of PharmD in Ambulatory Care Team

- Communicating urgent matters immediately to the PCP, which are defined by the CPA and/or specific protocols (eg, critical blood pressures, pulse rates, plasma glucose levels)
- Following up with patients, either by phone or in person, as frequently and long as necessary to ensure treatment goals are met
- Recruiting high-risk and/or high-cost patients who would likely benefit the most from disease state management or comprehensive medication management
- Provide education and guidance while working in physician residency programs



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Contributions



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Pharmacists as Problem Solvers

Problem	Pharmacist Assistance
"I'm not sure what medications I'm taking, I take so many. Sometimes I have a hard time keeping track of them."	Polypharmacy
"I went to go pick up my medication and it's \$500."	Cost minimization
"Is there something else you can prescribe that my insurance <i>WILL</i> cover?"	Formulary Review
"I have no idea why I'm taking that medication."	Patient Education
"I went to the pharmacy to pick up my medication and the pharmacist says it isn't covered/not available for pick up."	Prior Authorization
"When I left the hospital they changed all of my medications around. I don't know which ones I'm supposed to be taking now."	Transition of Care



Utility of PharmD in Ambulatory Care

- A 2010 meta-analysis study found that patient health improves significantly when pharmacists work with doctors and other providers to manage patient care¹
- Safety Outcomes
 - Adverse Drug Events **reduced by 47%** in pharmacist-provided care group
- Therapeutic Health Outcomes
 - HbA1c **reduction of 1.8%**
 - LDL cholesterol **reduction of 6.3**
 - Blood pressure
 - SBP **reduction of 7.8 mmHg**
 - DBP **reduction of 2.9 mmHg**



Impact of a PharmD in Ambulatory Care

- Estimated annual cost of drug-related morbidity and mortality resulting from non-optimized medication therapy was \$528.4 billion in 2016²
 - Equivalent to 16% of total US health care expenditures in 2016
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services³
 - Pharmacists worked closely with Medicaid patients for 1 year
 - Nearly 80% of medication issues resolved after 4 encounters
 - Estimated annual savings of \$1,123 per patient on medication claims and \$472 per patient on medical, hospital, and ED expenses



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Current Practice



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Current Practice

- Pharmacy resident: Dr. Ashley Gosner
- Ambulatory Care Pharmacist: Dr. Cameron Golden
- Clinical functions include patient recommendations about:
 - Medication management: Diabetes, heart failure, COPD
 - Polypharmacy
 - Cost minimization/social barriers
 - Transitions of care
 - Medication reconciliation
 - Opioid management



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Current Practice

Patient
Appointments
(Patient
Education)

Precepting

Social Barriers

Lecture Series

Journal Clubs



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Clinical Challenges



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Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA)

- A formal agreement between a licensed provider and another licensed clinician that addresses practice workflow
- A licensed provider makes a diagnosis, supervises patient care, and refers patients to a pharmacist under a protocol, allowing the pharmacist to perform specific patient care functions
- Pharmacists are able to operate as part of a healthcare team, with access to EHRs, managing patients' chronic diseases
- Laws and regulations vary state by state



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Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA)

- Statewide protocols initiated by legislative bodies to address specific public health issues
- Variations in state laws, specific limitations
 - New York, New Hampshire CPAs limited to inpatient setting
 - Delaware currently does not have legislation for CPAs



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Provider Status

- Pharmacists do not have provider status under Medicare
 - Medicare pays 85% of physician fee schedule (PFS) rate for services billed by NPs and PA-Cs⁹
 - Pharmacists are excluded
- Limits Medicare beneficiaries' access to services



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Reimbursement

- Clinical pharmacist service coverage beyond Part D does not exist
- Direct vs Indirect
- Pharmacist Billing
 - 99605 – MTM services, initial encounter
 - 99606 – Follow-up encounter
 - 99607 – Each additional 15 minutes



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FUTURE DIRECTIONS



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Benefits at Bayhealth, and Beyond

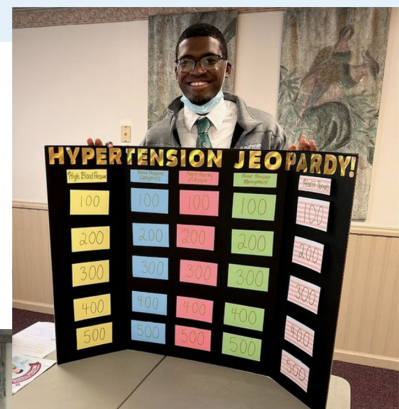
- Financial gain
- Cost reduction
- ACO metrics where our pharmacists are involved
 - Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control (> 9%)
 - Statin Therapy for Prevention and Treatment of CVD
- Antibiotic stewardship



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Bayhealth as an Advocate

- PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program (two program options)
 - Inpatient Healthcare
 - **Ambulatory Care**
- Community Outreach
- Population Health Pharmacists
 - Pharmacists helping to meet certain population milestones



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Legislation

- Provider Status:
 - Congress
 - HR-2759: Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act (introduced in April 2021)¹⁰
 - HR-7213: Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (introduced in March 2022)¹¹
- Collaborative Practice Agreements:
 - All US states have legislation in place for CPAs, except Delaware
 - Delaware Senate - HB 399 (Signed in October 2022)¹²



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Advocacy

- American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
- American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
- You!

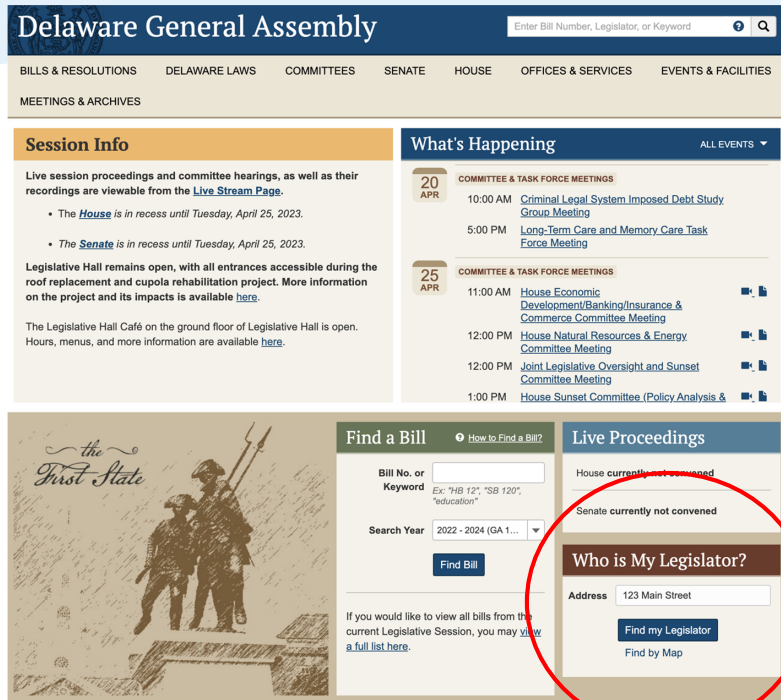


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Contact your representatives!

- <https://legis.delaware.gov/>

- Enter your address
- Find your representative
- Let them know!



Contact Information

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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?



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