

Know Your Transitions of Care Pharmacist!

WHAT ARE TRANSITIONS OF CARE?

“Transitions of care” refers to patients transitioning between health care settings (e.g., home to hospital, ICU to a step-down unit, hospital to rehab). Transitions of care have been identified as a critical time in a patient’s care for several reasons, including poor communication and an expectation that patients will remember and relate vital health-related information, which can lead to medication errors and hospital readmissions.”

WHY SHOULD PHARMACISTS BE INVOLVED IN TRANSITIONS OF CARE?

- **Clinical knowledge.** As drug experts, pharmacists ensure patients are on the most effective medication regimen, assess for adverse events, and educate on medications.
- **Technical skills.** Pharmacists ensure patients administer their medications and use medication devices, such as inhalers and injectables, correctly.
- **Medication access.** Pharmacists ensure patients can afford their medications, help them find discount or patient assistance programs, and find lower-cost medication alternatives.
- **Continuity of care.** Pharmacists facilitate the communication of patient health information between care providers within and across health care settings.

WHAT SERVICES CAN PHARMACISTS PROVIDE DURING TRANSITIONS OF CARE?

Hospital Pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personalize medication therapies• Coordinate health care referrals• Review and address labs• Decrease length of stay in the hospital• Provide discharge• Prevent avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions.	Community Pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate on medication administration and device techniques• Delivery of medications• Convenience medication packaging• Help patients find a way to take their medications as prescribed• Ensure access to medications• Provide immunizations
Specialty/Disease State Management Clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address health-condition issues• Adjust medications to effective doses• Provide disease-state, medication, and self-care education• Teach medication administration and device techniques	Primary Care Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and update medication lists• Collect vital signs, labs, diagnostic tests• Recommend medication therapies to treat current problems• Provide patient-centered care in a team-based environment

Developed by the APhA-APPM Transitions of Care Special Interest Group

