

Role of Clinical Pharmacy in Modern Healthcare and Enhancing Patient Care and Safety

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DESCRIPTION

Clinical pharmacy is an essential component of modern healthcare, encompassing a specialized field that integrates pharmaceutical expertise with patient-centered care. Pharmacists are no longer confined to the traditional roles of dispensing medications; instead, they actively engage in direct patient care, medication management, and play a pivotal role in optimizing therapeutic outcomes. The evolution of clinical pharmacy has significantly contributed to improving patient safety, medication adherence, and overall healthcare quality. One of the primary focuses of clinical pharmacy is patient-centered care. Pharmacists work collaboratively with healthcare providers and patients, taking an active role in medication therapy management.

They assess the appropriateness, safety, and efficacy of medications, considering individual patient needs, preferences, and medical histories. This personalized approach helps in tailoring treatment plans, optimizing drug regimens, and minimizing adverse effects, ultimately enhancing patient outcomes. Medication reconciliation stands as a critical practice within clinical pharmacy. Pharmacists meticulously review patients' medication histories across different healthcare settings to ensure accuracy and prevent medication errors during transitions of care. By identifying discrepancies and addressing potential drug interactions or duplications, they play a pivotal role in averting adverse drug events, thereby improving patient safety. Clinical pharmacists actively engage in pharmacovigilance activities, monitoring and reporting adverse drug reactions. Their vigilance helps in detecting and managing unexpected side effects, ensuring early intervention and mitigating potential harm to patients. By closely monitoring medication outcomes and adverse events, they contribute significantly to the continuous improvement of drug safety profiles. Clinical pharmacy is a health science discipline in which hospital or community pharmacists provide patient care in order to optimize medication therapy and promote health, wellness, and disease prevention.

Clinical pharmacy services include, medication reconciliation the process of comparing patient's medication orders with all the medications the patient has taken, in order to detect medication discrepancies and then communicate the newly reconciled list to the patient and the clinical care providers, medication order review i.e. assessing the appropriateness of current medications on the basis of health conditions, indication, and therapeutic goals of each medication, and patient education. Several studies demonstrated that clinical pharmacy services actively contribute to patient safety, optimizing drug therapy results, improving medication adherence, preventing adverse drugs events, shortening hospital stay, and decreasing readmission rates and mortality. Pharmacists specializing in clinical pharmacy provide invaluable support in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma. They offer patient education on proper medication use, lifestyle modifications, and disease management strategies.

Through regular follow-ups and counselling sessions, they empower patients to take an active role in their health, leading to improved adherence and better disease control. The integration of clinical pharmacists within interprofessional healthcare teams has become increasingly common. Their expertise in pharmacotherapy complements the skills of other healthcare professionals, fostering collaborative decision-making and comprehensive patient care. This collaboration enhances communication among team members, leading to more effective treatment plans and improved patient outcomes. The landscape of clinical pharmacy has been significantly influenced by technological advancements. Pharmacists utilize sophisticated software and tools for drug information, drug interactions, and dosage calculations. They advocate for underserved populations, assist in medication cost management, and provide culturally competent care, thereby contributing to reducing healthcare disparities and promoting health equity. Pharmacists engage in continuous research, staying updated with the latest advancements in pharmacotherapy and evidence-based guidelines.

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Received: 01-Dec-2023, Manuscript No. JAP-23-28548; **Editor assigned:** 04-Dec-2023, PreQC No. JAP-23-28548 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 18-Dec-2023, QC No. JAP-23-28548; **Revised:** 25-Dec-2023, Manuscript No. JAP-23-28548 (R); **Published:** 01-Jan-2024, DOI: 10.35248/1920-4159.23.15.390

Citation: Pillai S (2023) Role of Clinical Pharmacy in Modern Healthcare and Enhancing Patient Care and Safety. J Appl Pharm. 15:390.

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