

Vital Career for Pharmacists: Become a Medication Safety Officer

Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to interact with patients beyond the physician's office or the hospital.

As the most visited health care professional, pharmacists are an important touchstone at every part of the health care system, including the emergency room, acute care hospital, outpatient chronic care, or long-term care settings. Due to the increasing complexity of health care and pharmaceuticals, the role of a Medication Safety Officer is one of growing importance.

A Medication Safety Officer, or a Patient Safety Officer with a specialty focus in medication use, is responsible for addressing potentially preventable events or risks from medications. This high-profile and in-demand position is most suited to a pharmacist with strategic and leadership capabilities who is ready to have a direct impact on patient and medication safety at a systems level.

Six Unique Settings for a Medication Safety Officer

1. National Hospital System: Leading medication safety improvement strategy, chairing the medication safety committee, and advising multi disciplinary hospital committees on medication risk.

2. Managed Care Organization: Developing comprehensive diabetes disease management, focusing on non-adherence, high-risk patient assessment, drug regimens and hospital readmissions.

3. Hospital Clinical Research Department: Leading investigational drug management, managing study drug protocols, clinical trial processes, drug administration and storage, and security.

4. Continuing Education (CE) Provider: Developing pharmacy and Medical CE programs for complex specialty pharmacy products.

5. Health System: Opioid and pain management, responsible for drug selecting, dosing, regulatory management, addiction risk and patient satisfaction.

6. State Board of Pharmacy: Responsible for Director of Medication Safety responsible for developing pharmacist education programs on medication errors, adverse events, safety and quality initiatives and technology developments.

References:

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