



Your Pharmacist Serves You and Your Community

Pharmacists are consistently acknowledged as one of America's most trusted healthcare professionals. Pharmacists play an invaluable role in healthcare as medication-use experts - guiding the proper use of life-saving prescription medicines and helping patients get the best results from their medicines.

As prescription medications play an increasingly vital role in modern healthcare, and new medications continue to improve health outcomes and quality of life in patients with both acute and chronic diseases, we are faced with the growing challenge of assuring that patients receive the maximum benefit from the use of these sophisticated and complex therapies with the minimum amount of risk to the patient.

Facts on the Value of the Pharmacist.

Pharmacists provide critical emergency services such as those offered during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: establishing temporary and mobile pharmacies in the wake of disaster, filling prescriptions without regard to a patient's ability to pay, and utilizing existing shipping and communication networks to provide over-the-counter medications and other emergency supplies to those in need.

Dozens of studies conclude that pharmacists' patient care services can significantly reduce overall healthcare costs.

- Pharmacists providing medication therapy management (MTM) services to patients in long-term care facilities increased the number of patients receiving optimal care by 45 percent, resulting in an estimated \$3.7 billion in savings.¹
- Five-year outcomes of the **Asheville Project**, a disease management MTM program designed for city employees in Asheville, NC, resulted in: a decrease in total direct medical costs ranging from \$1,622 to \$3,356 per patient per year; a 50 percent decrease in the use of sick days; and an increase in productivity accounting for an estimated savings of \$18,000 annually.²
- **The Diabetes Ten City Challenge**, a voluntary MTM health benefit offered by employer groups in ten communities resulted in: savings of approximately \$918 per employee in total healthcare costs for the initial year; a 50 percent reduction in absenteeism; and average employee savings of \$400 to \$600 per year with incentives such as waived co-pays.³
- **The Patient Self- Management Program (PSMP) for Diabetes**, implemented in 2003, offers employees of five nationally known companies scheduled consultations with a pharmacist to receive counseling on management of their diabetes. The PSMP program resulted in a mean total healthcare cost reduction of \$918 (10.8%) per patient per year from the employers' projected expenditures.⁴

¹ The Fleetwood Project, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

² The Diabetes Ten City Challenge, APhA Foundation

³ The Asheville Project: Long-Term Clinical and Economic Outcomes of a Community Pharmacy Diabetes Care Program

⁴ Garrett DG, Bluml BM. Patient Self-Management Program for Diabetes: First-Year Clinical, Humanistic and Economic Outcomes. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*; 2005 March/April; 45(2): 130-137.



The Alliance for Pharmaceutical Care is a consortium of nine national organizations working together to educate the public, policy makers and other key decision makers about the important role that pharmacists play in the ever-evolving healthcare system.

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