



Collaborative Drug Therapy Management: A Coordinated Approach to Patient Care

Collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) is a team approach to healthcare delivery whereby a pharmacist and prescriber establish written guidelines or protocols authorizing the pharmacist to initiate, modify or continue drug therapy for a specific patient.

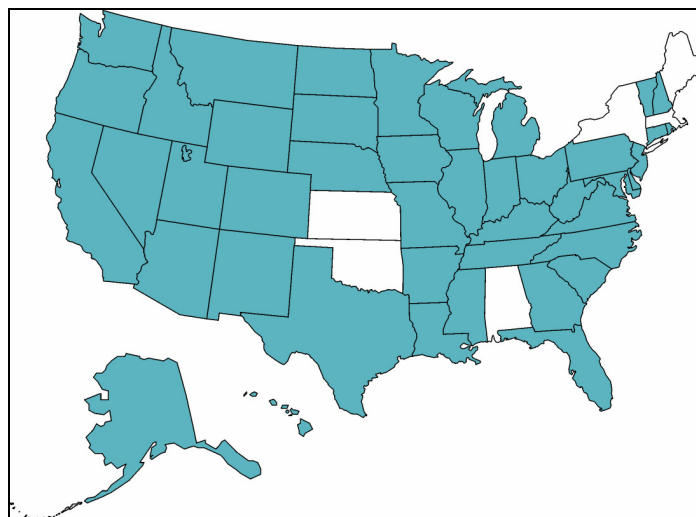
CDTM maximizes the expertise of pharmacists and physicians or other prescribers to achieve optimal patient care outcomes through appropriate medication use and enhanced patient care services. Authority for CDTM is generally incorporated in state pharmacy practice acts within the section describing pharmacists' scope of practice.

CDTM reduces delays in modifying drug regimens and unnecessary physician office visits, and increases patient compliance and adherence to drug therapy plans, all of which increases the likelihood that drug therapy problems will be averted.

- When pharmacists and physicians work closely together, patients consistently achieve better results from their drug therapies, in part because they are more likely to take their medicines – and take them correctly.
- When physicians and pharmacists work together to monitor a patient's reaction to a particular drug therapy, they are able to detect adverse reactions more quickly, which ultimately saves lives and unnecessary costs.
- By informing patients and prescribers of possible adverse effects and/or drug interactions, pharmacists keep their patients healthy and safe – as well as avoid unnecessary costs from complications or hospitalizations.

Private health plans and self-insured employers have long recognized the value of CDTM in improving health outcomes and reducing health costs. States facing the ongoing struggle to reduce health costs while improving clinical outcomes should expand collaborative practice protocols to improve patient care.

States that Authorize Pharmacists to Collaborate with Physicians (Shown in Blue)





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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