



The Emergency Pharmacist (EPh): A Safety Measure in Emergency Medicine

Part II: Role of the EPh

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The EPh – A Clinical Pharmacist

- Integral Part of the Health Care Team
 - Clinical Consultation Duties
 - Attends rounds and presents patient information
 - Gives dose recommendations
 - Provides therapeutic substitution information
 - Recognizes disease state specific pharmacotherapy
 - Implements patient specific pharmacokinetics
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Clinical Duties

- Order screening
 - Focuses on allergies, drug interactions, and appropriate dosages
 - Preparation/Selection of Medications
 - High Risk Medications
 - Most appropriate medication for patient
 - Resuscitations and Trauma Response
 - During resuscitations and traumas EPh is at bedside overseeing medication use process
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Availability, Accessibility, and Visibility

- ❑ Dedicated to emergency department
 - ❑ Physically located in emergency department
 - ❑ Provided with a computer and online resources
 - ❑ Easily accessible and visible to all staff with frequent “walk-through.”
 - ❑ Available by pager and portable phone
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EPh and Pediatric Patients

- Weight based dosing
 - Accurate and appropriate
 - Patient specific pharmacotherapy
 - Code Attendance
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The Eph – An Educator

- Patient Education
 - Nursing Education
 - Provider Education
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Patient Education

- Medication specific education
 - Asthma
 - Warfarin
 - Low Molecular Weight Heparin
 - Diabetes
 - Discharge counseling
 - Smoking cessation
 - Over the Counter Products
 - Ensure patient compliance
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Nursing Education

- Conducts continuing education sessions
 - New medications
 - Drug warnings
 - Drug-drug interactions
 - Mock codes
 - High risk medications
 - Safe medication delivery
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Provider Education

- Provides up to date, evidenced based research on pharmacological therapy
 - Develops a pharmacology elective for residents
 - Becomes an established authority through education
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EPh - Research

- Assists with research for improving patient safety in emergency medicine
 - Initiates/coordinates clinical and practice based research in EM population
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EPh and Quality Improvement

- Development of clinical pathways
 - Pharmacist oversight of patient protocols
 - Community Acquired Pneumonia
 - Procedural Sedation
 - Analgesic/Antipyretic in Pediatrics
 - Febrile Neutropenia
 - Acute Myocardial Infarction
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Benefits from the EPh

- Adding a valuable member to the patient care team
- Increasing focus on order screening, preparation, and selection of medications
- Greater attention given to patient safety
- Research and educational advancements
- A dedicated pharmacist *in* the emergency department
- It has been shown that pharmacists as members of an inpatient care team reduce the number of adverse events