

Editorial

Elevating Exposure of Pharmacy Services and Medication Management

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Abstract

Description

Medications are the mainstay of treatment for many disorders and diseases. Our guest editorial board is proud to highlight the complexity of medication management and the talented pharmacists dedicated to safety and effectiveness. This special issue of the *HCA Healthcare Journal of Medicine* is dedicated specifically to pharmacy services across the healthcare spectrum, featuring pharmacist medication management research and education aimed at enhancing the safety of patients and colleagues.

Keywords

pharmacy; pharmacist; medication management; patient safety

The complexity of medication management systems is widely researched. Bates and colleagues concluded that “Adverse events were identified in nearly 1 in 4 admissions, and approximately one-fourth of the events were preventable. These findings underscore the importance of patient safety and the need for continuous improvement.”¹ The Joint Commission also cites medication as 1 of the top 10 causes of hospital sentinel events. According to the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP), “Pharmacists have unique training and expertise in the appropriate use of medications and provide a wide array of patient care services in many different practice settings. These services reduce adverse drug events, improve patient safety, and optimize medication use and health outcomes.”² As essential members of the healthcare team, pharmacists provide medication expertise, education, and training to achieve optimal patient outcomes. Therefore, this special issue of the *HCA Healthcare Journal of Medicine* is dedicated specifically to safe medication management

and pharmacy services across the healthcare spectrum.

Our vision for the issue was to feature the progress of pharmacists who are practicing at the top of their license in non-traditional spaces, clinical research, and medication use safety. During the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacists’ skills were utilized to optimize medication management strategies and extend the reach of healthcare professionals directly to patients through COVID-19 testing and immunization.

In 2022 and 2023, medication management publications post-COVID-19 pandemic have reported an increase in healthcare-associated infections and the need to decrease preventable adverse events, especially adverse drug events, in hospitalized patients.^{1,3} Consequently, articles in this issue feature pharmacy medication management research, including the evaluation of an oral step-down therapy for gram-negative bacteremia and a comparison of the effectiveness of buprenorphine and baclofen for acute

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opioid withdrawal. A quality improvement article presents operationalizing a medication safety assessment for a large health system that is easily adaptable to most hospitals. Additionally, several case reports highlight interesting examples of specialty pharmacy practice.

Featured in this issue of the *HCA Healthcare Journal of Medicine* is an emphasis on the need for professional medical and health academic programs to promote interprofessional education/collaboration (IPE/IPC) among members of the healthcare teams. Models that use shared clinical decision-making to improve communication among the healthcare team and to address social determinants of health that may be impacting a patient's care are important, not only to educate the future generation of healthcare providers but also to benefit patients navigating the healthcare system. The pharmacy profession has a rich history of all backgrounds coming together to move the field forward. Some perspectives are shared in the editorial article "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Profession of Pharmacy: The Perspective of Three Pharmacy Leaders." Additionally, we are proud of our diverse pool of editorial board members, guest editors, and reviewers.

The pharmacy special issue would not have been possible without the vision and effort of the editor-in-chief, Bruce Deighton, the editorial board, and the managing editor, Graig Donini. We would like to thank the guest editors for their time and effort spent critiquing manuscripts and prioritizing content to make this issue possible:

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Dr Burgess is an employee of HCA Healthcare Management Services and Dr Kramer is a retired employee of Clinical Services Group, HCA Healthcare, an organization affiliated with the journal's publisher.

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