

Key points of joint statement

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Society for Hospital Medicine (SHM) have issued a joint statement on how it will benefit health care institutions to support collaboration between hospitalists and pharmacists.¹

The consensus statement provides these points about how the collaboration could work:

- Pharmacists could assist hospitalists in consultative services that foster evidence-based medication selections, perhaps while on rounds;
- Pharmacists could provide drug information to physicians, nurses, and other clinicians;
- Hospitalists and pharmacists could manage medication protocols collaboratively;
- Hospitalists and pharmacists could assist in developing treatment protocols;
- They could monitor patient therapeutic responses, such as laboratory values;
- Pharmacists could continuously assess and manage adverse drug reactions;
- Pharmacists could assist with obtaining medication histories and reconciling patients' medications;

- Pharmacists could collaborate with hospitalists in providing patient and caretaker education, discharge counseling, and follow-up; and

- Hospitalists and pharmacists could collaborate in hospital service activities, including student and resident education, research, quality improvement and safety initiatives, development of institutional guidelines and protocols related to patient care, participation on hospital committees, and helping with processes to introduce new technologies in the hospital.

The ASHP-SHM joint statement also identifies barriers to collaboration, including professional boundaries, inadequate staffing, time constraints, poor integration of technology systems, inadequate funding and resources and infrastructure, and the lack of third-party compensation for clinical pharmacy services.

Reference

1. Cobaugh DJ, Amin A, Bookwalter T, et al. ASHP-SHM joint statement on hospitalist-pharmacist collaboration. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm* 2008;65:260-263. ■