



*Michigan Pharmacists*

A S S O C I A T I O N

# News Release

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## **HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE HEALTHCARE TEAM**

When you think about healthcare workers you encounter in a hospital, physicians and nurses probably come to mind. However, there is another member of your hospital healthcare team who is also working to ensure your speedy recovery. Nurses, physicians and others rely on the pharmacist for advice on medication selection, administration and dosage.

For example, some hospital pharmacists may go on rounds with physicians. They review medication orders and help your physician make the best selection of medications. Pharmacists understand the chemistry of drugs and how they work, as well as how the body functions. Using this expertise, they are able to help make decisions about what medication is the best choice and what the correct dosage of medication should be. The hospital pharmacist may help to evaluate new products and make recommendations about which medications the hospital should stock.

Additionally, pharmacists work to prepare medications to be taken by the patients in the hospital. They compound, or combine the chemical ingredients to make, specialized medications or medications which need to be available in a different dosage form. They also mix or oversee the mixing of medications that need to be given intravenously. Hospital pharmacists supervise the dispensing and distribution of all forms of medication used in the hospital.

An important part of the pharmacist's job in the health-system is to assure that the patient can assume the responsibility of continuing to take his or her medications safely after leaving the hospital. The hospital pharmacist supplies information about where to store medications, what to do if a dose is missed and what over-the-counter products to avoid taking in conjunction with the new medication.

Your hospital pharmacist fulfills an important role in your care during your hospital stay. Together with physicians, nurses and other members of the healthcare team, the pharmacist helps to achieve the goal

of making your hospital stay as short and effective as possible, and that your healing process continues successfully after your discharge.

The MPA, serving more than 3,500 pharmacy professionals, strives to be a leader in professional and scientific advancement by following its mission of encouraging and supporting its members as the professionals responsible for the delivery of patient-oriented pharmaceutical care.

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