



Michigan Pharmacists

A S S O C I A T I O N

News Release

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PHARMACISTS DO MORE THAN COUNT AND POUR

Most people are used to seeing pharmacists behind a counter. Pharmacists may be seen accepting a written prescription or one by phone. However, many of the most important activities the community pharmacist participates in are those the average patient doesn't notice.

For example, did you know that some community pharmacists perform blood pressure, blood glucose (diabetes) and cholesterol screenings for their patients? Additionally, pharmacists sometimes perform bone density tests and administer immunizations.

Other pharmacists perform even more detailed, specialized services for patients. For instance, some pharmacists help patients on anticoagulants, or blood thinners, to regulate their medication. The pharmacist interacts with the patient, and may assist the physician with establishing an initial dosage regimen, making adjusting doses, ordering laboratory tests and assessing blood levels to achieve the most appropriate and efficient therapy.

Patients with asthma can receive assistance from pharmacists in the form of instruction on how to utilize their medications. Additionally, pharmacists can offer advice on how to avoid those circumstances that can trigger an asthma attack. Another function of the pharmacist in this area is to educate patients on the use of peak flow meters for monitoring their asthma at home.

Your local pharmacist can assist you with more services than you probably ever realized. Pharmacists' education and expertise make them a valuable ally in your health care. The next time you have a question regarding your health, remember your pharmacist is one of the most knowledgeable, accessible healthcare professionals.

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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