

I am writing to you today in support of an expanded role for pharmacists. I am currently a clinical pharmacist working in a community hospital. I have been a hospital pharmacist for over six years now. In our hospital, pharmacist are responsible for dosing of warfarin for indicated patients. We order INR lab test regularly to guide us with proper dosing. We also regularly adjust aminoglycosides which would require ordering lab work to determine peak and trough levels as well as kidney function tests. We are often called upon by physicians and nurses for antibiotic recommendations, dose adjustment recommendations etc..

I have also worked as a community pharmacist earlier in my career. Community pharmacists recommend cold and cough medications, first aid, constipation treatment ect. everyday. With the availability of blood pressure machines in pharmacies we were able to monitor patients blood pressure and make recommendations of family physicians regarding treatment options or adjustments. We show patients how to use glucometers yet we can't poke them due to our role restrictions.

The point I am trying to make is that we have been asked by other healthcare professionals and patients to go above and beyond our traditional role as a pharmacist for a long time. It is time to recognize that and make it 'official' by expanding our role as a healthcare provider. This will not only lighten the load from an overloaded healthcare system, but ultimately it will improve patient access and patient care.

Sincerely,

Joseph Chin
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