

There are no better health care professionals other than pharmacists in providing expertise on medication and medication safety to the public. Pharmacists play a crucial role in the delivery of health care. Doctors cannot function alone if there are no pharmacists. Even though physicians use their professional expertise to diagnose a disease, but pharmacist is the one who provide the necessary medication and medication safety counselling to the patients which is the ultimate step which helps to achieve the goals of therapy. Pharmacists should be given opportunity to administer medication such as insulin injection, vaccination, checking blood pressure, patient counselling on medication safety, blood sugar checking using glucometer even prescribing certain medication etc. We have a shortage of physicians who provide primary care. Patient population especially the elderly population is increasing due to increase life expectancy. More and more seniors are going to live with chronic illnesses which require continuous treatment. We do not have enough physicians to meet the demand now and in future. The physicians population is aging too. We need to optimize the patient care by providing comprehensive collaborative care. There is no higherarchy in health care provision. Each of us play an important and crucial role in health care provision. None of us cannot function on our own either. We need to share our responsibilities to provide quality of care for patients rather being burnt out by excess work and stress. We should not forget the pharmacists contribution and commitment during the outbreak of SARS in Ontario. The public could not reach the physicians most of the time, it is the pharmacists were the ones provided counselling, medication and even administered medication in those crucial emergency situation.

If the patients can check his own blood pressure, blood glucose level and administer insulin injection by themselves, why not pharmacists assist the patients by doing those services. We as health care providers should not take this as a turf issue, rather broaden our vision in providing holistic, high quality patient centred care for our communities.

Thank you
Dr.Krishanthy Shu
Family Medicine Resident