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'Key role' for pharmacists in medical homes, Bates suggests

The ability of pharmacists to improve patients' clinical care supports the need to include them in medical homes, according to a commentary by David W. Bates, M.D., in the June 15, 2009, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*.¹

As a member of a medical home's health care team, Bates suggests that pharmacists could reduce adverse-drug-event rates by following up with patients after hospital discharge. Bates also notes that pharmacists "should play a key role" in caring for patients who have chronic diseases and for patients taking multiple medications. "Pharmacists should be involved in some way in the care of all patients for whom medication adherence is a suspected issue," Bates states.

Bates further suggests that medical homes' implementation of health information technology can facilitate pharmacist-provided patient care.

The commentary is available at
http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Advocacy/PolicyAlert/HPA_AJHP_Bates_Commentary.pdf

1. Bates DW. Role of pharmacists in the medical home. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*; 66:1116-8.

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