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## Pharmacists Reduce Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors

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Pharmacists caring for patients at risk of developing cardiovascular disease significantly reduced patients' systolic/diastolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and smoking risk, according to a systematic review and meta analysis in the September 12, 2011, *Archives of Internal Medicine*.<sup>1</sup>

The most frequent pharmacist interventions, either done exclusively by a pharmacist or in collaboration with a physician or nurse, were educating patients, providing physician feedback, and providing medication management.

The authors conclude that pharmacists should be integrated into outpatient care and help manage patients' cardiovascular risk factors.

An abstract of the systemic review and meta analysis is available at <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/171/16/1441>.

1. Santschi V, Chiolero A, Burnand B et al. Impact of pharmacist care in the management of cardiovascular disease risk factors. A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials. *Arch Intern Med*. 2011; 171:1441-53.

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ASHP Health Policy Alerts are synopses of new studies highlighting the medication-use process in health care, especially studies assessing contemporary pharmacists' role in improving medication-use outcomes. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists encourages recipients to keep a copy of this synopsis for future reference.

