

January 26, 2009

Clinical Pharmacists Yield a Median Five-fold Return on Investment Among 31 Studies, Review Shows

Clinical pharmacists working in hospitals, ambulatory care clinics, physician's offices, and community pharmacies provided a significant return on investment, according to a November 2008 review article published electronically in *Pharmacotherapy*.¹

In a review of 93 studies published between 2001 and 2005, pharmacist interventions evaluated included general pharmacotherapeutic monitoring, targeted drug management, and disease state management. Forty-five of these studies included full economic evaluations, 31 of which showed a positive economic impact through direct reductions in medication expenditures or an indirect reduction in costs associated with adverse drug events.

The benefit-to-cost ratios from 15 studies ranged from 1.02:1 to 34.61:1, with a median of 4.81:1, which means that for every \$1 invested in clinical pharmacy services, \$4.81 was realized through lower costs or another economic benefit.

A copy of the full study is available at

http://www.pharmacotherapy.org/pdf/free/Pharm2811_Perez-EconEval.pdf

1. Perez A, Doloresco F, Hoffman J, et al. Economic Evaluations of Clinical Pharmacy Services: 2001 – 2005. *Pharmacotherapy* 2008; 28(11): 285e-323e here

To View ASHP's Policy Alert Archive click <http://www.ashp.org/policy-alert>.

Questions about ASHP Health Policy Alerts can be directed to Lisa Daigle, policy analyst, at (301) 664-8651 or ldaigle@ashp.org.

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.

