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Pharmacists Reduced Drug Problems, Costs Through Primary Care MTM, Study Shows

Pharmacists identified 917 drug therapy problems (10.4 per patient) that saved an estimated annual \$1,595 per patient during a Medicaid demonstration project at federally qualified health centers, according to a study in the April 2011, *Health Affairs*.¹

Pharmacists, working with primary care providers, saved an estimated annual \$1,123 per patient in medication claims and \$472 per patient in medical, hospital, and emergency department costs.

The study authors "recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation support the evaluation of pharmacist-provided medication management services in primary care medical homes, accountable care organizations, and community health care transition teams, as well as research to explore how to enhance team-based care."

An [abstract of the study is available here](#).

1. Smith M, Giuliano MR, Starkowski MP. In Connecticut: Improving patient medication management in primary care. *Health Aff.* 2011; 30:646-54.

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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.

