



Message from the Chair – January, 2011

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Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had the opportunity to hear about the Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI) Summit events held this past November. If you haven't, you can listen to the recordings of the sessions at <http://www.ashp.org/PPMI/PPMISummit/Materials.aspx> and stay tuned for published accounts of the meeting. In addition, there will be calls for action coming in the near future so flag your calendar to routinely check the website for new information.

The Section Executive Committee would like to offer the following thoughts for your consideration as the PPMI events move forward.

Create a framework – The section encourages pharmacy leaders to continue to strive to design safe medication systems as it relates to storage, distribution of product and knowledge. We encourage departments to continue to take a lead role in developing evidence-based medication-use policies and to develop robust assessments of the policies outcomes, then share them with other practitioners through the PPMI for all to learn.

Determine patient care-related services – The section encourages health systems to determine appropriate levels of care for all patients. We encourage pharmacy leadership to determine the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities required to deliver optimal service to each population, i.e., the need for postgraduate training, the need for specialized training in specific patient populations, and the need for board certification. We strongly encourage pharmacy leadership to provide the same level of care to high acuity patients, e.g., critical care, oncology, transplant, etc at all hours of the day every day of the week. We encourage the membership to contribute to discussions regarding optimal models.

Identify the available technologies – The section encourages members to contribute to the evaluation of available technologies in order to make data conveniently available to all pharmacists, to efficiently manage patient information, medication storage and preparation and to consider the use of technologies such as medication administration devices when applicable to assist in providing patient care. Health systems should be willing to make investments in technology to assist in organizing data for outcome analysis individually and in large scale.

Support the optimal use and deployment – The section supports the PPMI focus on advancing the role of the pharmacy technician and encourages continued discussion regarding how best to implement the advanced role toward the overall pharmacy services. Pharmacy departments should be designed to include advanced technician roles and to utilize student-pharmacists on rotation (IPPE, APPE) as functional members of the department and not merely as guest learners. Likewise encouragement should be made to adapt training models to support student pharmacists, postgraduate trainees in such a way to foster growth in numbers and learning opportunities for each.

Identify specific actions – The section encourages the PPMI to develop a succinct and direct position statement illustrating the expectations of the pharmacy profession to the service of patients and healthcare providers that may be used to support change within the health-system. The section encourages a series of papers individually focused on pharmacy leadership, pharmacy employees (pharmacists, technicians) that may be used to educate each group of their evolving role.

Lastly, on behalf of the Section Executive Committee, I want to thank you for your personal and professional contribution to this ongoing effort. We look forward to the coming opportunities to assist our members in achieving the desired outcomes to provide optimal direct patient care.

For more information on the entire initiative go to <http://www.ashp.org/PPMI.aspx>

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