

ASHP and Health-System Pharmacy

- ASHP is a 30,000-member national professional association made up of pharmacists who practice in health care systems.
- Health systems include hospitals, ambulatory care clinics, long-term care facilities, and home care operations. These are organized settings in which pharmacists work in an interdisciplinary fashion with physicians, nurses, and other professionals to provide care.
- ASHP's mission is to help people make the best use of medications. They are an advocate for pharmacists' professional services on patients' behalf.
- ASHP has extensive publishing and educational programs designed to help members improve the delivery of pharmaceutical care, and it is the national accrediting organization for pharmacy residency and pharmacy technician training programs.
 - ASHP is the publisher of the *AHFS Drug Information*, a widely respected source of drug information in hospitals for more than 50 years. The AHFS family of products provides the most comprehensive source of unbiased and authoritative drug information available to health professionals today. The U.S. Congress and various health care insurance providers have recognized the authority of the AHFS DI suite of products as a source of information on the medically accepted uses of drugs. The only official drug compendium published by a non-commercial entity, AHFS DI has a longstanding policy of editorial independence from the influence of pharmaceutical manufacturers, health insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, and other third parties.
 - The *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP)* is ASHP's official journal. It is dedicated to the advancement of pharmaceutical care in all components of health systems. The editorial content includes original articles of particular interest to pharmacists practicing in integrated health systems, managed care organizations, home care, ambulatory care settings, and hospitals. The focus is on drug-use control, the role of pharmacists in improving patients' outcomes, and the drug therapeutics information that pharmacists need to perform their clinical roles. AJHP is published 24 times a year and has a total circulation of over 39,000.
- Health-system pharmacists are licensed professionals with at least five years of highly specialized pharmacy education. They often have completed doctoral degrees in pharmacy (Pharm. D.) and post-graduate residency programs that make them the nation's medication-use experts. Their responsibilities often include:
 - Evaluating new medications to recommend those that are safest and most effective for individual patients;
 - Advising physicians and other health care personnel about medication selection and administration;

- Counseling patients directly to help them use their medication wisely;
- Monitoring every stage of medication therapy to improve all aspects of effectiveness;
- Providing crucial quality checks to detect and prevent harmful drug interactions or reactions and potential mistakes;
- Working under sterile conditions to combine injectible medications with fluids to create compounds that patients receive intravenously;
- Supervising the dispensing and distribution of medication; and
- Obtaining and maintaining supplies of medications that meet quality standards for purity and effectiveness and managing the proper storage of these products to ensure freshness and potency.