

# Managing Pain - Anywhere! The Role of the Pharmacist

---

Lee Kral, PharmD, BCPS

The University of Iowa Center for Pain  
Medicine

November 2012



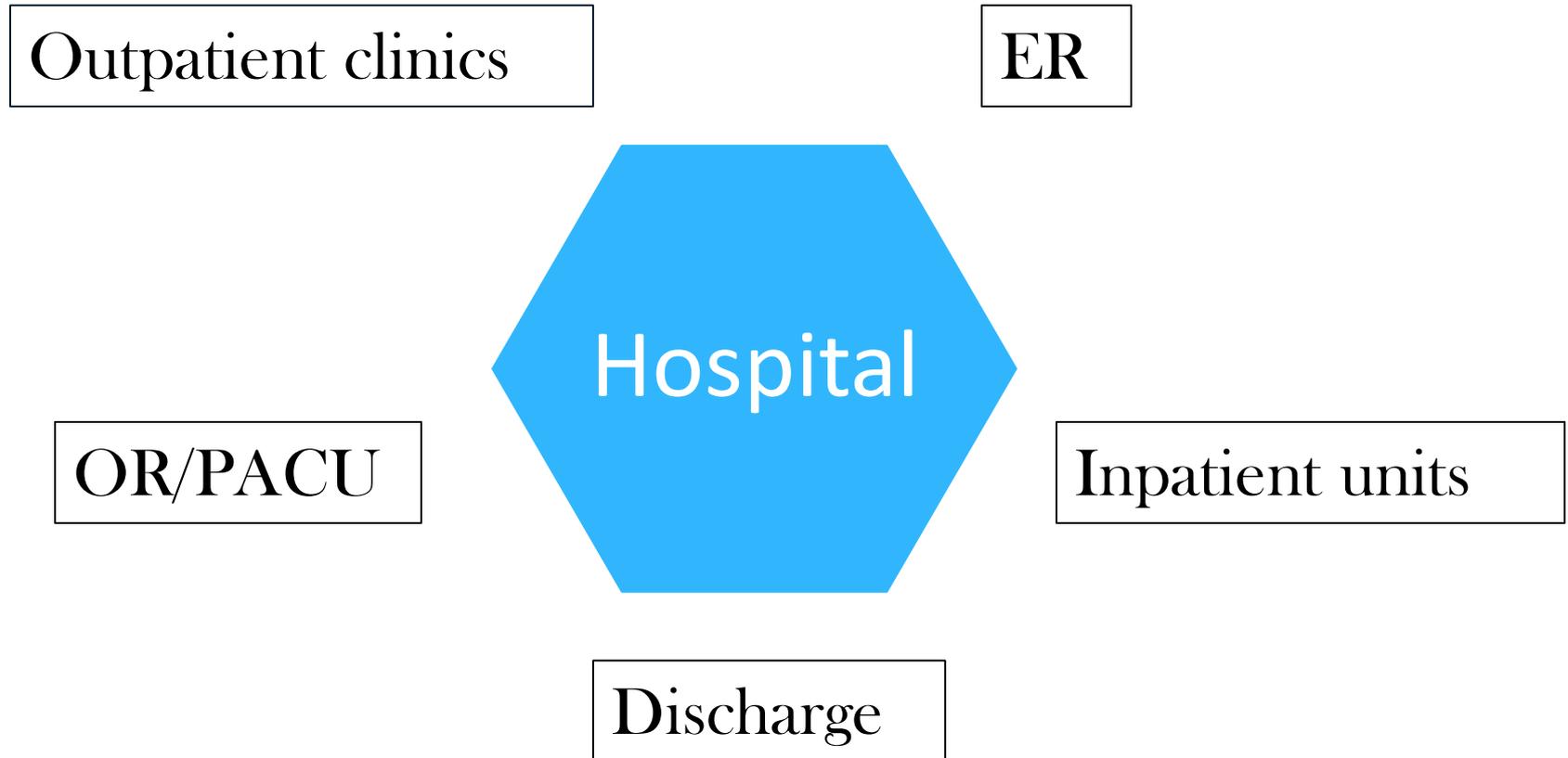
# Outline

---

1. Patient care settings
2. Barriers to pharmacist involvement
3. Establishing a practice
4. Qualifications, resources
5. Benefits/outcomes

# Where is the Pain?

---



Do YOU do pain management in your  
practice?

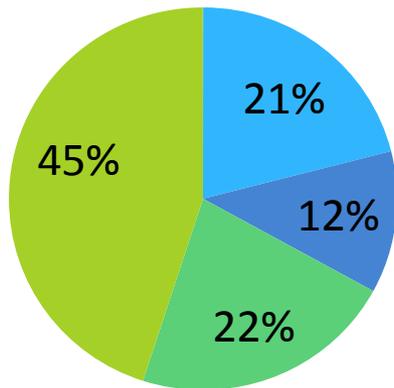
---

YES

NO

# Pharmacist involvement in pain management

## Practice sites



- Community hospitals
- Federal hospitals
- Hospice
- Other

## Hospital settings

- ❖ Emergency Department - acute pain
- ❖ Outpatient clinics - chronic pain
- ❖ Inpatient units - acute and/or chronic pain
  - ❖ Critical care
  - ❖ Palliative Care
  - ❖ Oncology
  - ❖ Surgery
  - ❖ Adult Medicine
- ❖ OR/PACU - acute pain



# Where do PPC pharmacists come from?

---

- ❖ Providers perceive need
- ❖ Pharmacy department initiative
- ❖ Sentinel events, safety issues
- ❖ Drug diversion/enforcement concerns
- ❖ Joint Commission mandates
- ❖ Gradual practice transition (fam med, hem-onc)
- ❖ Pain management practice model shift



Which of the following is something that a PPC pharmacist might do?

---

- a. Prescribe opioids
- b. Order urine toxicology
- c. Obtain medication histories
- d. Write orders for post-op pain in the PACU
- e. All of the above



# What are the barriers?

---

- ❖ Pharmacist lack of knowledge, expertise
- ❖ Budgetary constraints
- ❖ Resistance from medical staff
- ❖ Providers unfamiliar with qualifications
- ❖ Ignorance of nursing, medical, pharmacy staff
- ❖ Unclear role of the pharmacist
- ❖ Previously established methods
- ❖ Lack of mentorship



# What are the qualifications?

---

- ❖ PGY-2 Pain and Palliative Care residency
- ❖ Certified Pain Educator (ASPE)
- ❖ ASHP PPC traineeship
- ❖ American Academy of Pain Management
- ❖ Certificate programs
- ❖ Experience and interest



# What are the outcomes?

---

- ❖ Clinic setting<sup>1</sup>
  - ❖ Generated > \$100,000 annual true revenue
  - ❖ Saved health plans > \$455,000 annually
  - ❖ Reduce pain scores
  - ❖ Managed maintenance monitoring
- ❖ Opioid refill clinic<sup>2</sup>
  - ❖ Reduced drug costs
  - ❖ Reduced utilization of health care services
  - ❖ Provider satisfaction
  - ❖ Improved patient behavior

1. Dole EJ, et al. Am J Health-Syst Pharm. 2007; 64:85-9. 2. Wiedemer NL, et al. Pain Medicine 2007;8(7):573-84

# My practice site(s)

---

- ❖ Acute Pain Service (PCU)
  - ❖ Pre- and post-op planning
- ❖ Inpatient Consult Service (PCU)
  - ❖ First and follow-up
- ❖ Palliative Care
  - ❖ Consultant
- ❖ Outpatient Clinic
  - ❖ Pain Medication Management Clinic

# Acute Pain Transitions in Care

---

- ❖ Pre-op medication reconciliation
- ❖ Peri-op planning for difficult patients
- ❖ Post-op follow-up
- ❖ Post-discharge follow-up





# Operating Room/PACU

---

- ❖ Pre-op/peri-op planning for
  - ❖ Opioid tolerant patients
  - ❖ Patients with severe allergy/ADE with opioids
  - ❖ Complex patients not responding to 1<sup>st</sup> line tx
- ❖ Write PACU pain orders
- ❖ Write PCA and transfer to floor orders

# Inpatient Consults

---

- ❖ Med management for acute-on-chronic pain
- ❖ Multiple co-morbidities
  - ❖ Psychiatric
  - ❖ Organ impairment
- ❖ Chronic opioid patients
- ❖ Intrathecal pump trials





# Palliative Care

---

- ❖ Round with InterDisciplinary Team
- ❖ Medication reconciliation
- ❖ Review med lists daily
- ❖ Identify select patients with medication issues
- ❖ Manage/monitor complex regimens
  - ❖ Ketamine, lidocaine, etc.
- ❖ Ongoing pain management for cancer survivors



# Pain Medication Management Clinic

---

- ❖ Practice model change
- ❖ Several interventional physicians
- ❖ Needed medication management service
- ❖ Previous experience in pharmacist-run anticoagulation and pharmacotherapy clinic
- ❖ Developed a collaborative practice agreement
- ❖ Marketing!

# Do pharmacists have a role in PPC?

---

Yes

No

*“Those who look only to the past or  
the present are certain to miss the  
future”*

*John F Kennedy*