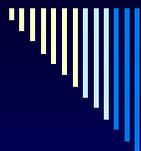


# The Emergency Pharmacist (EPH): A Safety Measure in Emergency Medicine

## Part II: Role of the EPh

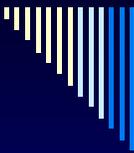
Prepared by the Emergency Pharmacist Research Team, University of Rochester Department of Emergency Medicine  
Rollin J. (Terry) Fairbanks, Principal Investigator; Karen E. Kolstee, Project Coordinator; Daniel P. Hays, Lead Pharmacist

Supported by The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality,  
Partnerships in Patient Safety, Grant no. 1 U18 HS015818



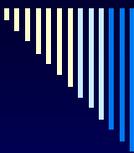
## The EPh – A Clinical Pharmacist

- Integral Part of the Health Care Team
  - Clinical Consultation Duties
    - Attends rounds and presents patient information
    - Gives dose recommendations
    - Provides therapeutic substitution information
    - Recognizes disease state specific pharmacotherapy
    - Implements patient specific pharmacokinetics



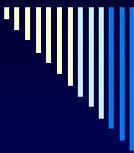
## Clinical Duties

- Order screening
  - Focuses on allergies, drug interactions, and appropriate dosages
- Preparation/Selection of Medications
  - High Risk Medications
  - Most appropriate medication for patient
- Resuscitations and Trauma Response
  - During resuscitations and traumas EPh is at bedside overseeing medication use process



## Availability, Accessibility, and Visibility

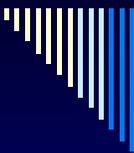
- Dedicated to emergency department
- Physically located in emergency department
- Provided with a computer and online resources
- Easily accessible and visible to all staff with frequent “walk-through.”
- Available by pager and portable phone



## EPh and Pediatric Patients

- Weight based dosing
  - Accurate and appropriate
- Patient specific pharmacotherapy
- Code Attendance

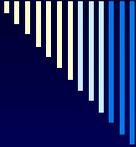
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## The EPh – An Educator

- Patient Education
- Nursing Education
- Provider Education

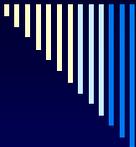
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## Patient Education

- Medication specific education
  - Asthma
  - Warfarin
  - Low Molecular Weight Heparin
  - Diabetes
- Discharge counseling
  - Smoking cessation
  - Over the Counter Products
  - Ensure patient compliance

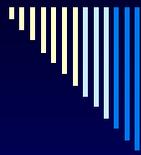
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## Nursing Education

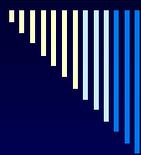
- Conducts continuing education sessions
  - New medications
  - Drug warnings
  - Drug-drug interactions
  - Mock codes
  - High risk medications
  - Safe medication delivery

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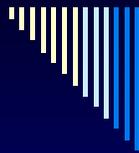
## Provider Education

- Provides up to date, evidenced based research on pharmacological therapy
- Develops a pharmacology elective for residents
- Becomes an established authority through education



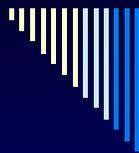
## EPh - Research

- Assists with research for improving patient safety in emergency medicine
- Initiates/coordinates clinical and practice based research in EM population



## EPh and Quality Improvement

- Development of clinical pathways
- Pharmacist oversight of patient protocols
  - Community Acquired Pneumonia
  - Procedural Sedation
  - Analgesic/Antipyretic in Pediatrics
  - Febrile Neutropenia
  - Acute Myocardial Infarction



## Benefits from the EPh

- Adding a valuable member to the patient care team
- Increasing focus on order screening, preparation, and selection of medications
- Greater attention given to patient safety
- Research and educational advancements
- A dedicated pharmacist *in* the emergency department
- It has been shown that pharmacists as members of an inpatient care team reduce the number of adverse events

Bond CA, et al, *Pharmacotherapy*, 1999; 19(6).

Leape LL, et al *JAMA*, Mar 2000; 283(10).

Gattis WH, et al, *Arch Internal Med*, 1999; 159(16).