

Building a Successful Ambulatory Care Practice: A Complete Guide for Pharmacists

By: Kliethermes, Mary Ann, BS, PharmD; Brown, Tim R., PharmD

MedInfoNow: Doody's Review Services. March 5, 2012

[REVIEWER'S EXPERT OPINION]

Michael C Barros, Pharm.D.(Temple University School of Pharmacy)

Description

This "how-to" book is organized systematically to depict the progression of the ambulatory clinic from its inception to its establishment in various clinical settings. This guide incorporates many unique and helpful elements, such as components of a business plan and how to appropriately document interventions by using various patient documentation techniques.

Purpose

The authors set out to create a comprehensive guide for pharmacy practitioners who wish to establish ambulatory care services. Given the advent of expanded pharmacy services, this book comes at a most opportune time. The role of the pharmacist has expanded drastically to include direct patient care by way of medication therapy management (MTM) and other forms of collaborative practice agreements with physicians. Evidence supporting the benefits of pharmacist involvement in direct patient care is plentiful, and this book does an excellent job of explaining how to build, manage, and advertise a pharmacist-led ambulatory care clinic.

Audience

Pharmacy professionals who are interested in establishing ambulatory care services will benefit from this book. Although it is designed with practitioners in mind, the book will be helpful for postgraduate pharmacy residents with an interest in ambulatory care as well. It is multifunctional, in that it may be used by practitioners as well as pharmacy residents who wish to establish MTM services during or after their residency training.

Features

The book begins with an overview of the ambulatory patient care model followed by helpful chapters discussing business plans, marketing, documentation, and

reimbursement. It is well referenced and includes chapter summaries as well as highlighted key points throughout to reinforce important concepts. Within each chapter, web icons denote additional web resources with supplementary material. There is also an extensive section of web resources for patient education material for a variety of chronic disease states.

Assessment

Given the expansion of pharmacy services through innovative programs such as MTM and the patient-centered medical home model (PCMHM), this book is a very useful resource for those who wish to either build or expand their ambulatory care services. The key points highlighted throughout the book and the additional information provided through websites truly makes this a complete and thorough guide for those who wish to build a successful and thriving ambulatory care service.

Weighted Numerical Score: 87 - 3 Stars