



## **ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACH TO PHARMACY INTEGRATION FOR HYPERTENSION CONTROL**

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The role of the pharmacist has expanded beyond just dispensing medications and is evolving into active participation in chronic disease management as part of team-based care. The evidence is strong that when pharmacists are members of the healthcare team, outcomes related to preventing or managing chronic disease (e.g., blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, obesity, smoking cessation) and medication adherence improve.

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### **Recommendations for Integrating Pharmacists on the Care Team for Hypertension Management**

Health systems and organizations looking to integrate pharmacists on the care team for hypertension management should:

- Identify physician champions and available pharmacy staff
- Outline which patients are suitable for pharmacist management of hypertension
- Specify scope of practice and services for pharmacists to provide, which may include:
  - Medication Therapy Management: adjusting medications, dosing and advancing treatment regimens
  - Ordering and reviewing of appropriate surveillance labs
  - Medication Management/Patient Self-Management
  - Interventions such as refills, medication counseling, adherence counseling, interaction and side-effect assessment
  - Measurement of vitals (blood pressure, pulse, height, weight, etc.)
  - Interactions and responsibilities within the care team structure
- Initiate collaborative practice agreements between pharmacists and clinicians including provisions for documentation, billing and coordination of care  
<https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/pubs/docs/CPA-Team-Based-Care.pdf>
- Explore opportunities for appropriate advanced credentialing of pharmacists as a provider within the health system in order to bill for reimbursable services provided
- Organize referral pathways for primary care physicians to refer to pharmacists
- Establish communication methods such as integrating pharmacist notes into the electronic health record or other systems to support timely, secure bidirectional communication between pharmacist and primary care physician
- Use available population health tools to integrate pharmacist work into patient registries and quality improvement, data collection, and evaluation efforts