Catholic Health System Pharmacy Department



What role does pharmacy play within our health system?

- Drug acquisition, dispensing, and monitoring
- Clinical patient assessment & pharmacotherapy recommendations
- Consultation & oversight of various therapies & protocols
- Drug information
- Medication safety

Catholic Health System Pharmacy



- Sisters of Charity Hospital – 24/7 Inpatient Pharmacy
  - SOC Outpatient Pharmacy on site
- Mercy Hospital of Buffalo – 24/7 Inpatient pharmacy
- Kenmore Mercy Hospital - 24/7 Inpatient pharmacy
- Mt St Marys Hospital – 7A-9P (weekdays) / 8-6 (weekend)
- Lockport Memorial Hospital – 8A-9P (weekdays) / 7-3 (weekends)

-- Phones directed to KMH pharmacy for after hours from MSM/LMH

Medication Ordering / Dispensing / Administration

- For the majority of the medication orders you place in the EMR, a pharmacist reviews and verifies the order releasing it to allow the nurse to administer. Bar-coded scanning is utilized for medication administration.
- Most medications (90%+) are located in automated dispensing cabinets on patient care units (Pyxis). These contain oral medications, IV medications, and medications used for rapid responses.
- IV medications are administered via an infusion pump. They have a drug library. This library has specific limits (soft & hard limits)associated with each IV medication or IV fluid to ensure safe administration. Medications must be run within these limits.

Medication Formulary

- Catholic Health has a formulary of approximately 2,000 items. This only encompasses a small amount of all available prescription medications on the market.
- Therapeutic interchanges / alternatives are used for many classes of medications such as blood pressure agents, lipid lowering, topicals, etc.
- If a patient is on medication "X" at home, when you push across that as a part of the med rec process, you may see a therapeutic alternative that is the recommendation to use as a temporary substitute while the patient is hospitalized.
- The pharmacy does allow the use of **patients own medication** from home in many cases, if necessary. The pharmacy may also need to order in a medication as a non-formulary item dependent upon the specific circumstances.

Inpatient Clinical Pharmacists

All of the hospitals have clinical pharmacists that are assigned to various nursing care units responsible for reviewing all patients to include:

- Renal function and renal-eliminated medications automatic dose adjustments (MM5.01.01-10 Medication Dosing Adjustments policy)
- Review for concerns with hepatic function and hepatically eliminated medications
- Therapeutic drug levels & medications that can be monitored by a drug level.
- Electrolytes and medications that may alter electrolyte values (pharmacist have an automatic electrolyte replacement protocol)
- Drug/drug interactions
- Drug/disease state interactions
- Comfort/Pain management
- Identify & report any adverse drug events
- Provide medication counselling

Inpatient Clinical Pharmacists

A pharmacist has the authority to:

- Order any applicable labs if they are required to monitor the safety / efficacy of a given medication.
- Order diagnostics tests or adjust antimicrobial therapy relative to the antimicrobial stewardship policy.
- Adjust insulin & related glycemic control measures according to the Pharmacy Insulin Adjustment Protocol (MM1.01.03-10).
- IV to oral/enteral automatic conversion based upon the IV to PO Streamlining policy (MM7.01.01-14).
- Assist in medication reconciliation process & adjust ordered in-house medications per CHS-QPS-005 Medication Reconciliation policy.
- Antibiotic review/antimicrobial stewardship for appropriate use and streamlining activities
- Pharmacokinetic and anticoagulation dosing consultation / warfarin / heparin / argatroban dosing
- Parenteral nutrition management in conjunction with nutrition (MM5.01.07-1)

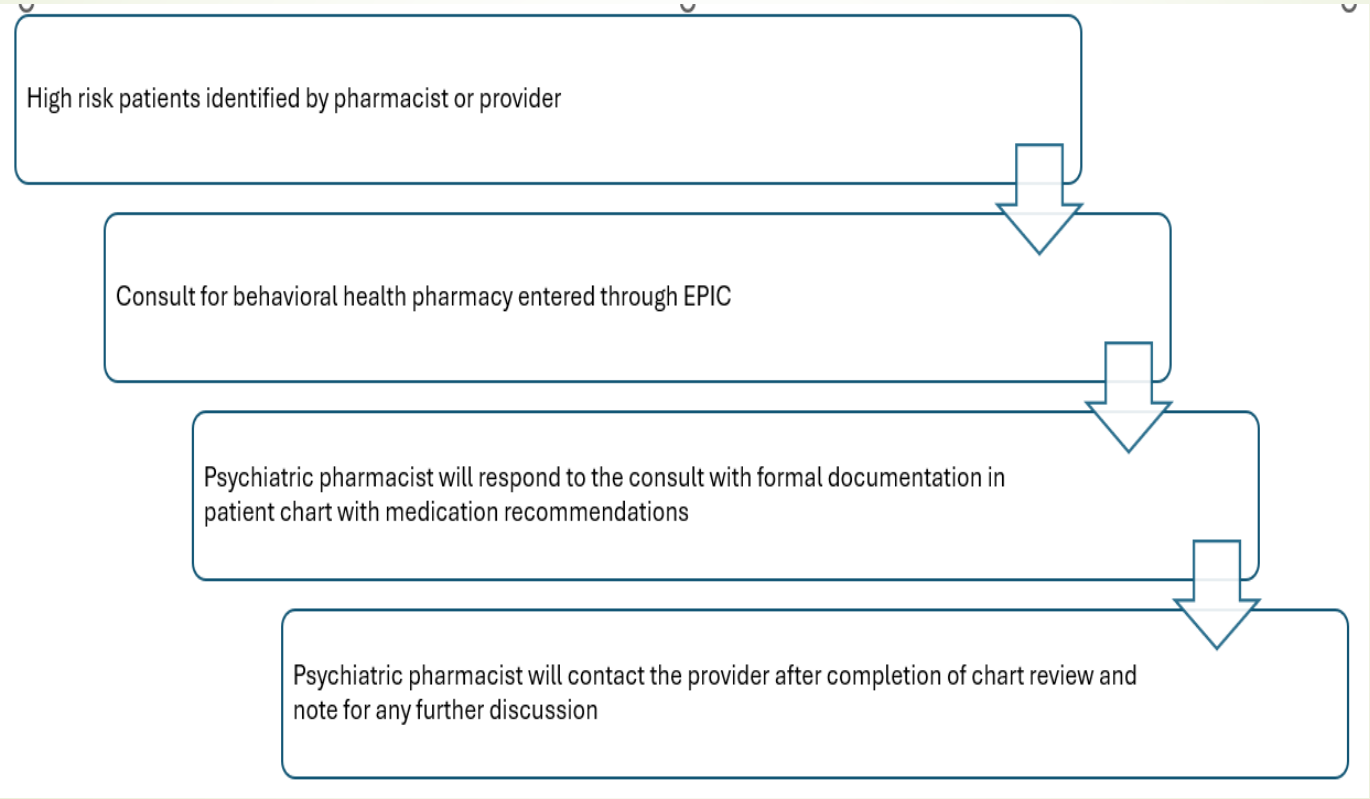
Special Considerations

- The pharmacy department has a variety of advanced practice pharmacy specialists that assist in the care of the patient throughout the hospital.
  - Infectious disease specialists
  - Emergency Department specialists
  - Critical Care specialists
  - Internal medicine specialists
  - Sterile product compounding specialists
  - Behavioral health specialists
  - Transition of Care specialist
  - Pain management specialist

Psychiatric Pharmacist Roles

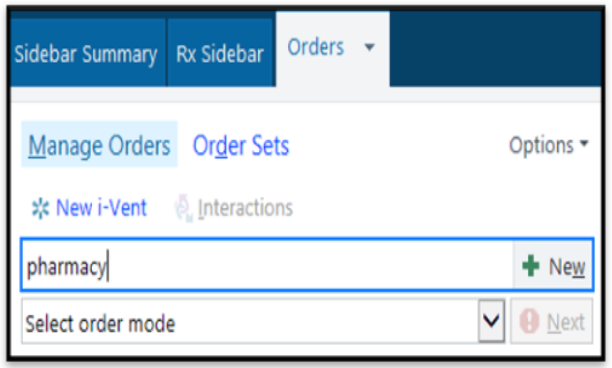
- Consult Service
- Review of Psychiatry Consults
- Complex Care Committee
- Clearview Treatment Services

Consult Service: Current Workflow



Placing a Consult

1. Type 'pharmacy' into orders



2. Select 'Pharmacy Psychiatric/ Behavioral Health Consult' under consults



Areas of Focus

These are some highlighted areas of importance & focus where a pharmacist will be working closely with the medicine team members.

- Selection of antibiotics, streamlining therapy, duration of therapy
- Evidenced-based medicine prescribing for disease states such as CHF, COPD, stroke, and acute coronary syndrome.
- Maintaining desirable glucose control (most readings at <180mg/dl)
- Anticoagulation management
- Reversal of anticoagulation (urgent or non-urgent)
- Transitions of Care (ensuring appropriate medication therapy is continued in the outpatient setting)

Points to Remember



- Although the pharmacy employs a variety of technologies to ensure medications are stored, prepared, dispensed, and administered with the highest level of safety; there are still unintended deviances that can occur.
- Medication Safety is a right for all patients at all times!– It is vital to report any event that concerns an undesirable patient medication scenario, whether it was a near miss or an actual occurrence.
- Medication ordering in the EMR(order sets, searches, etc) is continuously being refined. Please alert us to any potentially problematic or concerning aspect of how meds are ordered in the EMR.
- CHS has a Medication Safety Committee. All safety issues & events related to prescribing, dispensing, and administration of medication are reviewed and discussed.
- Please seek out a pharmacist for any medication issue or question related to: med-allergy, med interactions, med information, med monitoring, or med safety.
- Always speak up & have a questioning attitude.