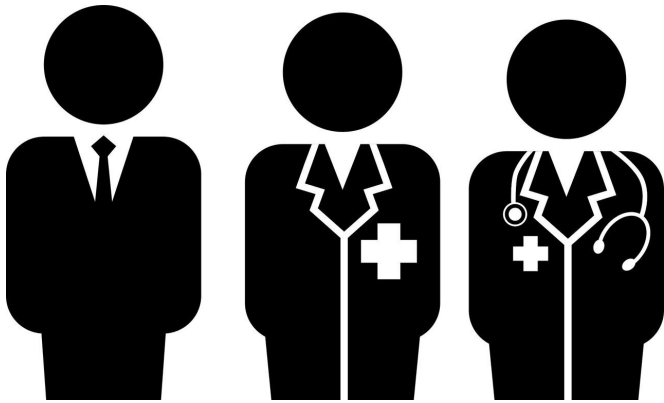


How pharmacists contribute meaningfully in primary health care

12 April 2021



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Evidence is growing that health care delivered by teams is superior to services delivered by a single practitioner. Published in the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*—University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina, American Board of Family Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians researchers compared key elements from the practice of a pharmacist providing comprehensive medication management to the foundational components defined for primary care. Based on a common health care team framework—the Four C's of Primary Care (first contact, continuity, comprehensiveness, and coordination)—this team has, for the first time, articulated the impact of comprehensive medication management services delivered by pharmacists. "We continue to see that pharmacists contribute positively to the health of patients and also to the team," said Kylee Funk, an associate professor in the College of Pharmacy. "The results of our work demonstrate that comprehensive medication management delivered by a pharmacist both supports and aligns with the foundational elements of primary care. These are important findings as the healthcare community looks to best integrate pharmacists as key

members of an interprofessional team." The U of M, ABFM and AAFP found in their academic commentary that:

- Pharmacists support first contact by increasing provider access. When the [pharmacist](#) follows up with the provider's patients, the provider has more room in their schedule for visits with other patients;
- Pharmacists improve continuity through identifying certain groups of patients who would benefit from a visit with the pharmacist. For example, patients with diabetes who are not at their blood sugar goals;
- Pharmacists support [primary care](#) providers' ability to be comprehensive in their care because pharmacists work with the patients and providers to optimize the patient's medication regimen;
- Pharmacists improve coordination by collaborating with specialists and others in the patient's healthcare team around optimization of a patient's medications.

More information: Kylee A. Funk et al, How Comprehensive Medication Management Contributes to Foundational Elements of Primary Care, *The Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* (2021). [DOI: 10.3122/jabfm.2021.02.190318](#)

Provided by University of Minnesota

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