

Pharmacists play key roles in cardiac disease management

March 9 2018



(HealthDay)—For patients with cardiac disease, pharmacists in all

practice settings have an important role in the management of the chronic disease state, according to a report published in *Drug Topics*.

In the management of complex disease, pharmacists have a role in discussing [medication regimens](#), as well as ensuring patients are compliant with their medications. The value of pharmacists has been demonstrated in treatment of hypertension, with high-quality evidence suggesting that team-based models, particularly with pharmacists, can improve hypertension control and treatment.

According to the report, pharmacists are valued as a member of the health care team treating patients with [cardiac disease](#). At Kaiser Permanente Colorado, pharmacists work closely with primary care providers, cardiologists, neurologists, and cardiac rehabilitation nurses. Pharmacists work based on a Collaborative Drug Therapy Management document, which outlines what they can do. Physician representatives review the document, and ensure that [pharmacist](#) management is based on guidelines, evidence-based medicine, and safe practices. Hospital pharmacists can also help as patients transition from hospital to discharge, spending time with patients prior to discharge and ensuring they understand their medication regimen. Community pharmacists also have a role to play, by providing blood pressure screenings, as well as counseling on lifestyle issues.

"It's important for a patient to understand their meds, as well as to understand why lifestyle issues, such as diet and exercise are important," Mary Curtis, Pharm.D., from Bremo Pharmacy, said in a statement.

More information: [More Information](#)

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Citation: Pharmacists play key roles in cardiac disease management (2018, March 9) retrieved 23 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-03-pharmacists-key-roles-cardiac-disease.html>

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