

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR NORTH DAKOTA PHARMACISTS

COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for pharmacists to collaborate with other providers within their community to improve antibiotic stewardship including collaborative practice agreements, immunizations, and point-of-care testing. Pharmacists have a unique position to improve patient access to primary care through expansion of these clinical services.

Point of Care Testing

CLIA-waived testing allows nontraditional laboratory settings, such as pharmacies, to provide certain tests involving a minimal level of complexity with a low risk of erroneous results. While blood glucose readings and finger-stick cholesterol tests often come to mind when thinking of CLIA-waived tests, there are actually more than 120 CLIA-waived tests available including drug screening, serum chemistries, genetic tests, influenza, and Group A Streptococcus. Many of these tests are easy to perform and do not require extensive lab equipment.

Pharmacies must meet certain requirements to provide CLIA-waived tests including obtaining a CLIA waiver and having policies and procedures to address blood borne pathogens and other good laboratory practices.

Point of care testing is an opportunity to support antibiotic stewardship practices in your community. Group A Streptococcus and influenza testing can help identify appropriateness of antibiotic therapy. Collaborative practice agreements could further expand these services by allowing for prescribing.

Immunizations

Preventing unwanted infections improves judicious use of antibiotics. Immunizations are a key component to antibiotic stewardship efforts. Pharmacies have had the ability to offer immunizations for almost two decades in North Dakota. There are many opportunities to expand immunization services through collaborative practice agreements and collaboration with the ND Department of Health. Many pharmacies have seen great success in providing these services.

Support

Pharmacies at times can struggle with implementing these programs. Support is available. NDSU School of Pharmacy offers certificate courses in Point of Care Testing and for Injectable Medication Administration (Immunizations) based on courses developed by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). Elizabeth Skoy, RPh, PharmD, can assist with either of these certifications. Contact information: Elizabeth.Skoy@ndsu.edu, 701.231.5669.

Great Plains QIN/Quality Health Associates can also provide resources and assistance with your programs. Please contact Jayme Steig, RPh, PharmD for assistance. Contact information: jayme.steig@area-a.hcqis.org, 701.989.6224.

Additional Resources

APhA Immunization Center - <https://www.pharmacist.com/immunization-center>

APhA Pharmacists and Infectious Disease - <https://www.pharmacist.com/pharmacists-and-infectious-disease>

CDC Get Smart: Community Pharmacists - <https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/for-hcp/community-pharmacists.html>

NACDS Community Pharmacy Based Point-of-Care Testing Certificate - <http://nacds.learnercommunity.com/Point-of-Care-Testing-Certificate/default>

References

1. Michigan Pharmacists Association. Point of Care Testing. <http://www.michiganpharmacists.org/resources/pointofcare>. Last accessed 8/29/17.
2. Klepser, DG. Point-of-Care Testing: Making it work in your pharmacy. <http://mckessonideashare.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Point-of-Care-Testing.pdf>. Last accessed 8/29/17.
3. National Community Pharmacists Association. Point of Care (POC) Testing. [http://www.ncpanet.org/innovation-center/diversified-revenue-opportunities/point-of-care-\(poc\)-testing](http://www.ncpanet.org/innovation-center/diversified-revenue-opportunities/point-of-care-(poc)-testing). Last accessed 8/29/17.