

# LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER POLICY

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| Subject:<br><b>SCOPE OF PRACTICE: PHARMACIST</b> | Original Issue Date:<br>12/1/17   | Policy #<br><b>943</b>   |
|  | Supersedes:<br>12/1/17  | Effective Date:<br>11/16/20  |
| Departments Consulted:<br>P&T Committee          | Reviewed & Approved by:<br>Attending Staff Association<br>Executive Committee<br>Senior Executive Council | Approved by:<br>(Signature on File)<br>Chief Medical Officer<br><br>(Signature on File)<br>Chief Executive Officer |

## PURPOSE

The pharmacist provides pharmaceutical care, which is the direct, responsible provision of medication-related care for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve a patient's quality of life.

## POLICY

The pharmacist's role as a care provider is to improve an individual patient's quality of life through the following successful medication-related outcomes:

- Cure of a patient's disease;
- Elimination or reduction of a patient's symptomatology;
- Arresting or slowing of a disease process; or,
- Prevention of a disease or symptomatology

### A. Role of the pharmacist

1. *Medication-related problem*: an event involving medication therapy that actually or potentially interferes with an optimum outcome for a specific patient.
  - a. Identifying potential and actual medication-related problems
  - b. Resolving actual medication-related problems
  - c. Preventing potential medication-relation problems
2. Categories of medication-related problems:
  - a. Untreated indications or conditions
  - b. Improper drug selection
  - c. Dose too low
  - d. Dose too high
  - e. Use of medication without indication
  - f. Failure to receive medication
  - g. Adverse drug event occurrence
  - h. Drug-drug, drug-food, drug-disease state interaction or conflict
3. Medication order review
  - a. A pharmacist reviews medication orders for appropriateness. The review includes:
    - a. Medication Selection Review
      - i. Therapeutic appropriateness with respect to indication
      - ii. Therapeutic duplication in the patient's medication regimen
      - iii. Real or potential drug interactions

- iv. Real of potential allergies or sensitivities
  - v. Contraindications for use; including but not limited to Black Box Warning Review
  - b. Medication Dose Review
    - i. Drug dosing with respect to Age and Indication
    - ii. Drug dosing with respect to Renal and Hepatic Function Dose Rounding when appropriate
    - iii. Serum-Drug-Level Dose Review
    - iv. Initial Bolus and Re-Bolus Dosing needs review
  - c. Medication Frequency Review
    - i. Start time of medication
    - ii. Frequency review
    - iii. Meal optimization
    - iv. Time of day optimization
  - d. Route
    - i. Drug route appropriateness
4. The pharmacist participates in the monitoring of effects of medication to assure medication therapy is appropriate and minimizes the occurrence of adverse events. The pharmacist's process includes:
    - a. Ordering clinical and laboratory data to evaluate the efficacy of and anticipate or prevent adverse events related to medication therapy;
    - b. Initiating or adjusting the drug regimen of a patient;
    - c. Assessing the signs and symptoms relevant to patient's medication therapy.
  5. The pharmacist resolves all questions regarding medication orders with the prescriber before medications are approved for administration to the patient. The pharmacist documents these discussions.
  6. Medication use related patient care functions are performed by all department staff pharmacists working under medical staff-approved collaborative practice agreements. These are designated as Advanced Practice "core skill sets". Skillset evaluation of ability to perform patient assessment, initiate, adjust or discontinue drug therapy; order and interpret therapy-related tests as part of a medical staff approved collaborative practice protocol or guideline.

#### B. Duties of the pharmacist

1. Responsible for procuring, storing, compounding, repackaging, and dispensing of all medications used in the facility;
2. Provision of drug information to care professionals within the hospital;
3. Direct provision of medication-related care;
4. Supervise the packaging of drugs and check the packaging procedures and products upon completion;
5. Responsible for all activities of pharmacy technicians, interns, and clerks; and,
6. Performs all functions which require professional judgment.

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**RESPONSIBILITY**

Pharmacist

**REFERENCES**

California State Board of Pharmacy Rules and Regulations  
Conditions of Participation, 2015, sec 48225

**REVISION DATES**

November 16, 2020