

Better Skills, Best Care

Role: Ward Pharmacy Technician

Pilot setting

Western Hospital – Neurology and Acute Medical, Respiratory Ward and Cardiac Care Units

Role description

The ward pharmacy technician supported the ward pharmacist in providing clinical pharmacy services to inpatients. Under the direction of a pharmacist the ward pharmacy technician was responsible for stock control in the wards and for the provision of imprest and requisition services to designated wards and departments. The ward pharmacy technician also assisted clinical pharmacists in the provision of pharmaceutical care and with education of patients.

Tasks

Assist in patient medication management

- Locate patient's home medications
- Appropriately store patient's home medications

Aid efficiency of diagnostic results to pharmacists

- Retrieve data from diagnostic service via computer
- Alert pharmacist to laboratory data which requires urgent attention

Assist in discharge planning and ward transfer information

- Obtain information about planned, unplanned discharges and patient transfers
- Notify ward pharmacist of discharges and transfers

Supply and retrieve non-imprest medications

- Read pharmacist annotated medication on chart
- Dispense medications
- Deliver supply to ward
- Inform nursing staff of availability of medications on ward
- Regularly re-stock and remove unneeded stock from ward trolley
- Prepare dose administration containers backing sheet and fill drug administration containers

Education of patients (limited)

- Educate patient in use of medication delivery devices
- Educate patient in use of drug administration containers

Ensure education resources are available for pharmacists

- Maintain supplies
- Distribute CMI to patient as directed by pharmacist
- Prepare drug information to give to pharmacist to give to health professional
- For discharge patients, as directed by pharmacist send information to community health providers

Administration and Clerical Role

- Assist in documentation management for PBS and hospital formulary requirements

Education and training

HLT40507 Certificate IV in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support is the appropriate qualification for this role. (See www.ntis.gov.au – Health Training Package for qualification details.)

Electives should include:

- Provide specific information to clients (HLTCOM301B)

or

- Communicate effectively with clients (HLTCOM404B)

If the individual to fill the role is a registered Division 2 Nurse, the following additional pharmacology units could be undertaken:

- Medications in the work environment (EN507A)

or

- Apply principles of pharmacology to safe nursing practice (VBN535)

Providers

Delivery of qualifications and units of competency from the new Health Training Package HLT07 requires TAFE institutes and private Registered Training Organisations to formally apply to the Office of Training and Tertiary Education for Registration to deliver training. It is anticipated delivery could commence by Semester 1, 2008.

Information about VET providers can be accessed on www.ntis.gov.au

Costs associated with undertaking training

Until nominal hours for units are established, costs of delivery cannot be given.

Training gaps and delivery options

HLT40507 Certificate IV in Hospital/Health Services Pharmacy Support is suited to Australian Apprenticeship pathways.

Contact details for piloted role

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