

# Hospital Pharmacy Services

World Pharmacists Day is coming up next month, so here's what Hospital Pharmacy Services do.

## Did you know?

- Our services are so much more than the supply of drugs.
- Ward Pharmacists and Technicians screen all the drug charts for their assigned wards each day and prioritise seeing patients on high risk medications first. (We have to prioritise as there are not enough of us to see everyone).
- We check your antibiotics are effective by ordering and interpreting drug levels. We do this to calculate the best dose for the doctors to give to prevent potential damage to your kidneys.
- In the background, we are clinically reviewing your medication chart and recommending dose adjustments and changes in treatment to make sure your medications are at optimal levels and are safe.
- Pharmacy Technicians do thorough medication histories to ensure that on admission to hospital that all of your regular medications are prescribed correctly. By doing this, your doctors have more time to spend assessing you.
- By doing medication histories, we reduce the time it takes for doctors to write your discharge letter and prescription, thereby decreasing the likelihood of unintentional errors.
- We advise on chemotherapy dosing and monitoring, and we source chemotherapy agents from around the globe to treat patients.
- We build clinical protocols for chemotherapy prescriptions to ensure safe prescribing.
- We have specialist clinical pharmacists who run specialist clinics (eg. paediatrics, mental health, transplant and respiratory to name a few) whereby patients come in and get reviewed by the pharmacist who makes recommendations to the medical team. This helps the medical teams see more patients and manage their outpatients more effectively.
- In the background, we establish and update protocols to ensure safe use of medications especially in urgent situations where risks of medication errors are high.
- We play a vital role in the education of doctors and nurses to ensure the safe and appropriate prescribing and administration of medications.
- Pharmacy Assistants work extremely hard making sure that all the wards in the hospital get their drug rooms topped up regularly with all the drugs they need and that they order anything that is running low so that the nurses and doctors have the drugs they need available when they need them.
- Roughly 20-30 % of hospital admissions are related to adverse drug events. (Health and quality safety commission).

Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Assistants are an integral part of the medication safety net in the healthcare and hospital setting.

**#supportyourpharmacystaff**



**Celebrate our Pharmacy workforce on 25 September 2019**