



Patient & Family Guide

2023

Hospital Pharmacy Services

Aussi disponible en français :
Services de pharmacie d'hôpital (FF85-2108)



www.nshealth.ca

Hospital Pharmacy Services

Hospital Pharmacy Services includes pharmacists, regulated pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy practice assistants. They are all important members of your health care team. They work directly with you to help with your health needs. They teach patients about their medications and offer care to help patients reach their personal health goals.

What pharmacy services are available?

Medication preparation

Pharmacists, regulated pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy practice assistants work hard to get your medication ready safely, in the correct dose, and on time.

Medication history

Pharmacists, regulated pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy practice assistants work with you, your loved ones, and support person(s) to get a complete list of all the medications you use at home.

Medication management

Pharmacists will:

- › work with you to understand your medication goals (what you hope your medication will help you with).
- › work with your health care team to make sure medications are the best choice.
- › work with your health care team to make sure you are given the correct dose of your medications at the correct time.
- › make sure your medications are safe for you.
- › manage drug interactions (when a medication creates problems because it reacted to another medication).
- › work with you to manage any side effects of your medications.

Prescribing medications

- Pharmacists can continue any prescriptions you had before you were admitted, so that you will not miss any doses.
- Pharmacists can help treat minor problems (like cold sores and allergies) and prescribe medications (like birth control and vaccines).

Medication teaching

- Pharmacists can answer any questions you have about your medication(s). They can help you learn:
 - › why a medication(s) is used.
 - › how your medication(s) works.
 - › how to take your medication(s).
 - › what to expect when you take your medication(s).
- They can also give you a **medication calendar**. This is a tool to help you take your medication(s). It has information and instructions like:
 - › The name of your medication(s)
 - › The reason you are taking the medication(s)
 - › What time of day to take the medication(s)
 - › Any special instructions for your medication(s) (like taking it with food)
- Pharmacists make sure you are offered medication choices that are easy to use. They also work with your health care team and your drug plan to find the most affordable medication.
- Before you leave the hospital, the pharmacist will help you learn about your medication(s) so that you feel confident taking it at home.

- The hospital pharmacist works with your community pharmacy to make sure that all of your medication needs will keep being met when you are at home.

Health promotion

- Pharmacists promote health in many ways:
 - › Prescribing and giving vaccines (assessing what vaccine is right for you and learning about which ones you had in the past)
 - › Helping you to cut down on or stop smoking (teaching you about other healthy lifestyle choices)

Learning, teaching, and research

- The pharmacy team is dedicated to lifelong learning.
- Pharmacists are leaders in the hospital and take part in teaching and working with other pharmacists, pharmacy students, pharmacy residents, and various members of the health care team.
- Pharmacists want to make sure the best possible medication choices are available and take part in research that focuses on providing the best care.

Medication information and review

- When pharmacists are deciding which medications to offer you, they look at:
 - › how the medication is used or taken.
 - › how safe the medication is for you.
 - › how well the medication will treat your condition(s).
 - › how much the medication costs.
- They also show the other members of your health care team this information to make sure the right medications are being used for you.

If you would like to see a pharmacist at any time during your hospital stay, please tell a member of your health care team.

Resources

Visit these websites to learn more about what pharmacists do in hospitals and in their communities:

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

- › www.cshp.ca

Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia

- › <https://pans.ns.ca/>

