

Louisiana Pharmacists Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Louisiana Pharmacists Association Reminds You What Your Local Pharmacist
Can Do For You**

Many are familiar with the traditional role a pharmacist plays in the comprehensive healthcare team. Pharmacists are the medication experts who are there to answer questions and concerns you may have about the medications you are currently taking or choosing the right over the counter medication. However, many are unaware of the other services their local pharmacist does or can provide.

Medication Therapy Management

Medication Therapy Management (MTM) is a relationship between your pharmacist, your physician, and you, the patient. MTM promotes the safe and effective use of medications and helps you adhere to the targeted goals for your drug therapy. This service is provided through a thorough review of your current medications during which the pharmacist looks for ways to improve your therapy. Some of the issues the pharmacist looks for are drug interactions, duplications of drugs from the same class, and lack of medication compliance.¹

Quality Assurance

Quality assurance is when your pharmacist performs a review of your medications when you request a refill or bring in a new prescription. The pharmacist ensures you are receiving the medication your physician prescribed with the right dose, formulation, and directions.

Drug Utilization Review

Drug Utilization Review (DUR) involves your pharmacists checking your current medications for safety, effectiveness, and drug interactions. This service is performed every time you have a medication refilled or a new medication filled at the pharmacy.

Smoking Cessation Counseling

Your pharmacist may provide education to patients who smoke regarding the risks of smoking, benefits to quitting, and various prescriptions and OTC cessation aids such as nicotine replacement therapies. In addition, your pharmacist may refer patients for proper monitoring and support to increase long-term success.²

Compounding Services

Pharmacists can provide compounding for medications that are not commercially available or those that are experiencing shortages. They can also provide counseling on these products to ensure that you get the best possible benefit from the compounded medication.

Vaccine Administration

If certified, your local pharmacists can administer the yearly Influenza vaccine. Many pharmacies now offer this service and are capable of filing this service with your insurance. They are also allowed to administer other vaccinations if the physician documents “Authority to Administer” on the prescription as well as includes the administering pharmacist’s name and other required documentation.³

Be sure to contact your local pharmacy today and inquire about the services they can provide.

References:

1. Medication Therapy Management. American Pharmacists Association Website. Available at:

<http://www.pharmacist.com/AM/Template.cfm?section=MTM>

2. Promote Tobacco Cessation Practices in Community Pharmacies. American Pharmacists Association Website. Available at:

[http://www.pharmacist.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Pharmacy_News
&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=24661](http://www.pharmacist.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Pharmacy_News&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=24661)

3. Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Rules and Regulations. Chapter 5 Pharmacists. Available at:

<http://www.pharmacy.la.gov/assets/docs/Laws/Binder2012LawBook20120101.pdf>. p 121.

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The Louisiana Pharmacists Association, established in 1882, strives to promote the interests of all pharmacists of the State of Louisiana. For more information about the LPA and its benefits, contact Julie Fuselier or Phyllis Perron, LPA Co-Executive Directors at 225/346-6883 or visit our website at www.louisianapharmacists.com.

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