

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



JANUARY 2024

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: ASK A PHARMACIST!



Using a pharmacist can increase your health and quality of life. Pharmacists are highly trained medical professionals. They are qualified to give advice on health issues and medicines. Pharmacists also ensure the safe supply and use of medicines by the public. Medicines prevent, treat, or manage many illnesses or conditions. They are the most common intervention in health care. The traditional role of pharmacists in the community has involved dispensing prescriptions that doctors issue. However, pharmacists can do more than that. Below are seven ways that a community pharmacist can help you be healthy:

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Pharmacists have the skills and training needed to administer vaccines, from an annual flu vaccine, to polio, shingles, tetanus, chicken pox, and more.

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- 1. Administer vaccines:** Pharmacists have the skills and training needed to administer vaccines, from an annual flu vaccine, to polio, shingles, tetanus, chicken pox, and more.
- 2. Help you quit smoking:** Pharmacists are trained to assist with smoking cessation. They can recommend medications to help with kicking a smoking habit. They can also provide ongoing support and holistic resources.
- 3. Offer advice regarding dietary supplements:** If you have visited a pharmacy, you know that vitamin and supplement aisles can be overwhelming. Your pharmacist can give recommendations and advice about supplement type, brand, and dosage.
- 4. Create a personalized medication calendar:** If you have multiple medications, things can get complicated. Your community pharmacist can help you develop a personalized calendar for your medications, so you know exactly when and how to take each one.
- 5. Educate you on medication interactions:** As your health-care team's medication expert, pharmacists can tell you exactly how your medications will react with each other. That way you can avoid any life-threatening issues. Pharmacists can offer alternatives when necessary.
- 6. Help you manage health conditions:** Pharmacists can help manage ongoing health conditions such as high blood pressure, chronic pain, asthma, and diabetes. Often, pharmacists can run basic tests such as blood glucose levels. They can assist with educating patients on how to reduce symptoms they experience because of ongoing health conditions.
- 7. Advise you on over-the-counter medications:** Not only are pharmacists experts in prescription medications, but they are also very knowledgeable when it comes



to over-the-counter (OTC) medicines. They help you to find the right OTC medication and can ensure it will not negatively interact with your prescription medications.

REFERENCES:

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK564913/>
- <https://pharmacyforme.org/2020/10/21/7-things-your-community-pharmacist-can-do-for-you>

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