

ASHP MEDICATION SAFETY TOOLKIT

Medication Safety Scholars



Emily Jerry
foundation
FOR PATIENT SAFETY & SAFE MEDICATION PRACTICES™

DEVELOPING PHARMACY LEADERS IN MEDICATION SAFETY

The Medication Safety Scholars developed this toolkit to support ASHP-affiliated Student Societies of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHPs) in developing students' skills and knowledge in medication safety. Each section in the toolkit outlines medication safety-focused initiatives and programming for pharmacy students.

MEDICATION SAFETY IN PHARMACY

Medication Safety is an area of pharmacy practice that focuses on preventing medication errors and patient harm. Health systems utilize various strategies and plans to ensure their institution operates through best practices to prevent harm. While this impacts all departments and health professions, pharmacy has a vital role in medication safety. Pharmacy is at the forefront of ensuring the correct medications are dispensed to patients.

Pharmacists work to optimize medication regimens to ensure safety and efficacy for each of their patients. In addition, pharmacy leaders work to develop and implement strategic plans for improving patient outcomes and eliminating medication errors. These plans and processes vary based on the individual health system but can include strategies such as Good Catch Programs and Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycles. One vital element of medication safety in pharmacy is maintaining just culture within practice. Just culture in healthcare is a concept that recognizes errors or mistakes as a product of system or process failures, as opposed to an individual practitioner at fault. Advocacy efforts from organizations, such as the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) and the Emily Jerry Foundation, emphasize the importance of maintaining just culture within pharmacy practice to prevent future errors from occurring on a systems level.

ACTIVITIES FOR SSHP'S

Social Media Campaign

To raise awareness for students on medication safety and the prevalence of medical errors, develop social media posts, either on your own or using the templates on page 4, on your chapter's Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.

Disease State-Related Initiatives

Develop a disease state-related initiative to educate students and members of your local community on how to prevent medical errors in a specific patient population. Your chapter can change the initiative each year to reach a broader audience. For inspiration, see the "Alzheimer's Infographic" on page 5, which was created by Medication Safety Scholars using information from the Alzheimer's Association.

Good Catch Program

Good Catch Programs are a common way for health systems to recognize interventions made by healthcare professionals that prevent patient harm. For students, opportunities may arise for interventions throughout your local community or rotation experiences. It is important to recognize these interventions to develop just culture within your daily practice. Chapters can develop Good Catch Shout-Outs for their members, which will emphasize the importance of such programs. The shout-outs would provide a platform for students to share their interventions and raise awareness on areas of improvement in pharmacy practice!

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

Practice Makes Progress

It is paramount for students to develop their own toolkit as they progress into practicing pharmacists. Students have numerous opportunities to strengthen their skills as future medication safety leaders. The formation of strong habits serves as the foundation of this skill set. Some of these habits can include maintaining an inquisitive attitude, performing a double check while in the pharmacy, and speaking up when noticing an error or a potential error. Medication safety is vital for all pharmacists, no matter their practice setting! For more tips on how to be involved, see the Medication Safety Student Quick Glance on page 6.

Medication Safety Opportunities on Rotations

See the Medication Safety Rotation Guide on page 7.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

PGY-2 Residencies in Medication Safety

For students interested in a career in Medication Safety, formal training programs are offered in various health systems. Visit the links below to learn more about some of these programs:

- Froedtert – Medication-Use Safety and Policy PGY2
- University of Florida Health Jacksonville – Medication-Use Safety & Policy PGY2
- Cincinnati Children’s - Medication-Use Safety & Policy PGY2
- Ochsner Health – Medication-Use Safety & Policy PGY2
- Memorial Sloan Kettering – Medication-Use Safety & Policy PGY2
- University of Utah Health – Medication-Use Safety & Policy PGY2

You can browse more opportunities on the ASHP Residency Directory.

Pharmacy Leadership in Medication Safety

Pharmacists can have a wide variety of roles in medication safety. One formal role includes serving as a Medication Safety Officer. To learn more about this career path, view a sample Medication Safety Officer job description.

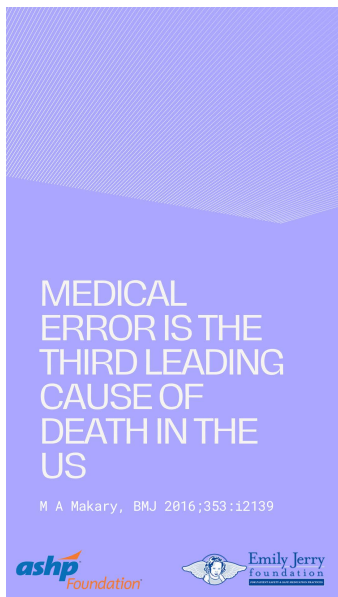
Video Testimonials

Learn about medication safety practices from pharmacists in several different fields in this video, created by the ASHP Foundation Medication Safety Scholars.

Click here to watch the video.

SOCIAL MEDIA TEMPLATES

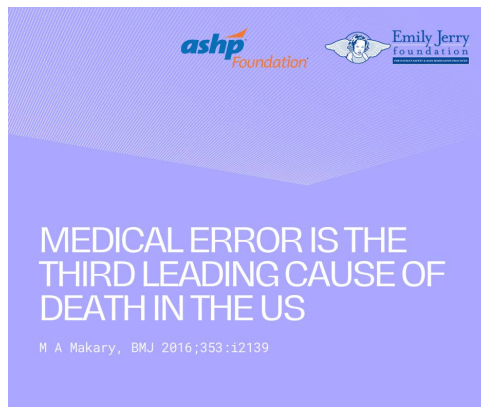
(click to open)



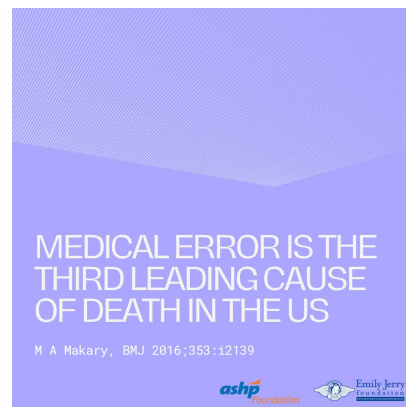
Facebook Story



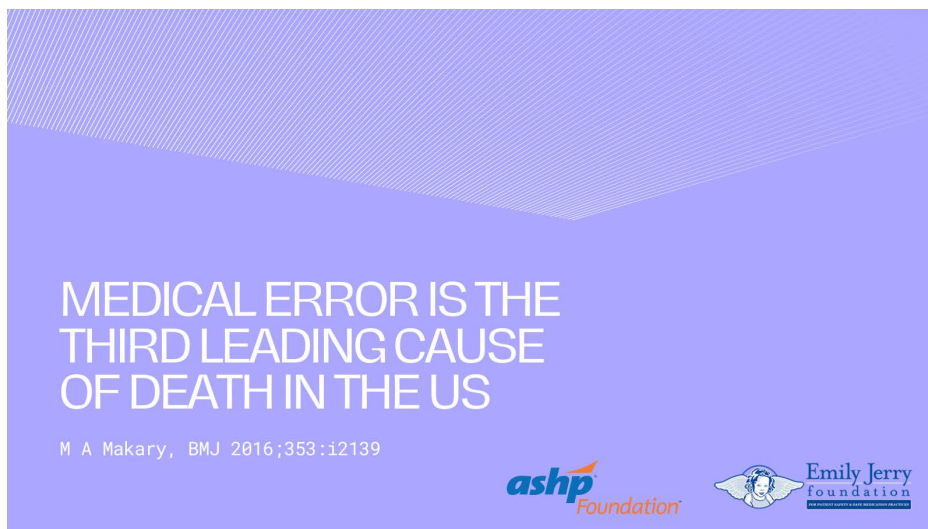
Animated Instagram Story



Facebook Post

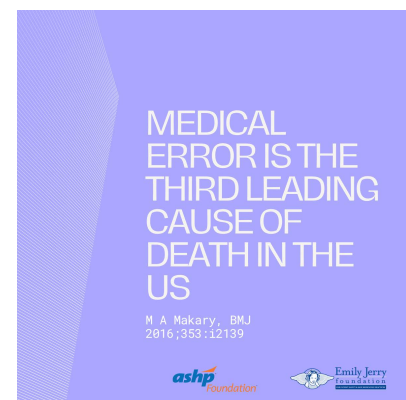


Instagram Post



Twitter Post

LinkedIn Post



ALZHEIMER'S INFOGRAPHIC

(click to open)

IT'S ALL ABOUT MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION:

ALZHEIMER'S

"How to give medication to someone with Alzheimer's?"



Giving Medication

Here are some helpful tips for patients with early stages of Alzheimer's for caregivers:

- Use a pill box organizer:** keep a daily list/ calendar to help ensure medication is taken as prescribed.
- Develop a routine for giving the medication:** ask the pharmacist how medications should be taken and create a daily routine.



As the disease progresses, caregivers will need to provide a greater level of care. Here are some additional tips:

- Use simple language and clear instructions.** For example, say "Here's the pill for your cholesterol. Can you put it in your mouth and drink some water?"
- Make changes for safety.** Have emergency numbers easily accessible.

If swallowing is a problem, ask if the medication is available in another form.

Tips for caregivers:

1. Coordinate with healthcare teams such as doctors and pharmacists.
2. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to check for possible drug interactions.
3. Get important information
4. Make sure medication is taken as directed.
5. Maintain records of medications.



MORE THAN 6 MILLION AMERICANS ARE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S.

47.5 MILLION LIVING WITH DEMENTIA WORLDWIDE

MORE THAN 11 MILLION AMERICANS PROVIDE UNPAID CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S OR OTHER DEMENTIAS.

IN 2020, THESE CAREGIVERS PROVIDED AN ESTIMATED 15.3 BILLION HOURS OF CARE VALUED AT NEARLY \$257 BILLION.

BETWEEN 2000 AND 2019, DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASE DECREASED BY 7.3%, WHILE DEATHS FROM ALZHEIMER'S HAVE INCREASED BY 145%.



ALZHEIMER'S is a specific brain disease that accounts for 60-80% of dementia cases.

VS

DEMENTIA is a general term for symptoms like decline in memory, reasoning or other thinking skills.

Symptoms of Stage 3 Alzheimer's Dementia



- Decline in cognition
- Worsening visual or spatial problems
- Beginning of or worsening of mental and physical problems

Everyone can help in the fight to end Alzheimer's! Stay informed and reach out for help!

This infographic was created by the Medication Safety Scholars using information from the Alzheimer's Association. Source: <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/safety/medication-safety>

MEDICATION SAFETY STUDENT QUICK-GLANCE

(click to open)

FROM ASHP'S MEDICATION SAFETY SCHOLARS TOOLKIT

The Medication Safety Student Quick-Glance

Make Connections Early

WITH PRECEPTORS, MENTORS, AND OTHER PASSIONATE STUDENTS

Begin making connections with faculty, staff, and other students passionate about medication safety, and find mentors from whom you can learn. Many preceptors will want to hear about your passions and will want to help connect you with people they know who are also interested. Making these connections early on is a great way to get your foot in the door!

Foster Those Connections

BE INTENTIONAL

Connections need nurturing. Take the time to explore what things you like and dislike about the world of medication safety by learning more about your faculty, preceptors, mentors, and other students. Doing so can lead to independent projects or research opportunities to help you learn more about the topic and how it relates to current pharmacy practice.

Maximize Your Rotation Experiences

YOU GET WHAT YOU PUT IN

Rotations are a great way to see these medication safety topics in actual pharmacy practice, allowing you to explore how pharmacists in different settings help promote medication safety.

If you have a rotation with more downtime or flexibility, share your interest with them. Doing this may lead to valuable experiences and perspectives you might have missed otherwise. This is the perfect place to see it all come together. Take it all in!

Seek Opportunities to Learn More

USING OUR MEDICATION SAFETY TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to help those interested in learning more about the pharmacist's role in medication safety. Use the resources in this guide to help you explore your passion!

MEDICATION SAFETY ROTATION GUIDE

(click to open)

Medication Safety Rotation Guide

Did you know that the NAPLEX has a medication safety and quality improvement section? Use this resource to learn how to make the most of your rotations to help reinforce medication safety themes in different pharmacy practice settings!

Community Rotations



Community Rotations are ripe with unique opportunities to explore medication safety. These opportunities include different alerts and double-check policies that help ensure the right patient gets the right medication/dose/etc. While the days in a community rotation can be busy, please take a second to talk to your preceptor about the different ways their system helps to ensure medication and patient safety.

Management and Institutional Rotations

This rotation looks different depending on where you go, but it also has excellent opportunities to explore medication safety. Most hospitals have medication safety officers. Ask if you can spend a day or two shadowing them. If you are really interested, you can ask to work on a project with the medication safety specialist.



Clinical and Direct Patient Care Rotations



As you experience different pharmacy practice settings, you will realize that every pharmacist is involved in medication safety. Here, you can be part of the team that makes interventions and good catches! Use our Medication Safety Shout-Out tool to document your interventions for a chance to be highlighted on our page.

Elective Rotations

This one is a fun one! Depending on your practice site, you can explore different avenues for medication safety. An example of this could be a compounding rotation where you learn how an organization prepares sterile and non-sterile preparations in ways that minimize errors. Another example could be on an ambulatory care rotation where you are helping to maximize a patient's insulin or anticoagulation regimen. In this rotation, you will have the opportunity to be on the team that deals with high alert medications, and it's a great way to learn and explore different strategies to promote medication safety!




2021-2022 MEDICATION SAFETY SCHOLARS



Payson Ashmead



Lacey Gotcher



Brandéa Hardie



Kristina Leav



Adriana Weiser

TAKING THE LEAD IN MEDICATION SAFETY

Medication Safety Scholars is a distance impact program designed for pharmacy students to develop into leaders with advanced knowledge and skills in medication safety and quality improvement. It is offered through a partnership between the ASHP Foundation and the Emily Jerry Foundation, established to focus on educating and developing the leadership skills of the next generation of pharmacists.

As the philanthropic arm of ASHP, the ASHP Foundation shares ASHP's vision that medication use will be optimal, safe, and effective for all people all of the time. The foundation furthers ASHP's priorities through high-impact philanthropic activities focused on change, innovation, and outcomes. The mission of the Emily Jerry Foundation is to help make the nation's medical facilities safer for everyone, beginning with our babies and children.

For more information about the foundation, visit ashpfoundation.org.