Community Hospital Pharmacy Practice

January 24, 2006
Background

- >75% of hospitals in U.S. are non-profit, community hospitals
- >75% of hospitals are less than 200 beds
- Community hospitals are run as businesses, much as any other business
Trends in Non-profit Community Hospitals

- Capital building programs
- Continuing impact of cost-based reimbursement programs
- Greatly increasing costs – technology, labor, drugs and supplies
- Increasing census
- Increasing acuity
- Decreasing sources of skilled labor – particularly nurses
- Increasing emphasis on employed physicians
Challenges of Hospital Pharmacy Practice

- Running a big business – requires managers with balance between clinical skills and business acumen
Challenges of Hospital Pharmacy Practice (cont)

- Increasing emphasis on cost of drugs
  - New drug biotechnology is dazzling, but expensive
  - Ever increasing component of health care expense
  - Prove that increasing drug costs, but decreasing costs elsewhere (↓ LOS, ↓ morbidity and mortality)
Challenges of Hospital Pharmacy Practice (cont.)

- Focused attention on medication errors
- Multiple customers - patients, physicians, nurses, and other providers
- Highest paid professionals in the hospital
- Unique opportunity to control costs and increase revenues
What Does A Community Hospital Pharmacist Do?

- Formulary management
  - Safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness
- Medication-related policies and procedures
- Drug use control throughout hospital
- Medication therapy expert of the health care team
- Reliance on technology and technicians to free pharmacists
What Does A Community Hospital Pharmacist Do? (cont.)

- Practicing Pharmaceutical Care
  - Assuring positive drug therapy outcomes
  - Interpreting, clarifying, and prescribing
  - Order entry
  - Selection of appropriate therapy
    - Prescriptive authority protocols
    - Direct consults
    - Pharmacokinetic dosing
What Does A Community Hospital Pharmacist Do? (cont.)

• Monitoring
  • Ordering lab tests
  • Monitoring labs
  • Dosage adjustments
  • Adverse drug effects/reactions

• Patient education
Career Opportunities

- Staff pharmacist – distribution and pharmaceutical care
- Specialist – oncology, critical care, infectious disease, nutrition, nuclear med, emergency medicine
- Research
- Ambulatory clinics
- Management
Career Opportunities (cont.)

Residencies
- General
- Specialty
- Fellowships
Future

- Unlimited opportunity
- Rewarding career – continuous growth and development
- Lifelong learning
- Pharmacogenomics will provide much opportunity
- MD computer entry will free up pharmacists
Future (cont.)

- Pharmacists will move more into monitoring, education, individual therapy design, and database design/maintenance
- Salaries will increase
- Demand great for next several years
- Focus needs to remain on drug therapy