**Pharmacy**

The pharmacy is involved in all aspects of drug treatment in the hospital. Services provided include:

* providing the patient and healthcare team with up-to-date drug information
* helping to choose which drugs will be used in the hospital
* talking with patients to find out which drugs they were taking at home before coming to hospital
* ensuring that the correct drugs and dosages are prescribed when a patient is first admitted
* confirming if certain drugs should be avoided because of drug allergies or known drug interactions
* contributing to the development of treatment plans through participation in patient care rounds
* helping decide if and when drugs should be prescribed
* monitoring and recommending which drugs should be prescribed and changes of drug therapy throughout the patient’s stay in the hospital
* liaision with other healthcare providers to enable smooth transitions of care as patients move from one place of care to another, such as from hospital to home
* reviewing the list of prescriptions for discharge and informing the patient about any new drug treatment

The pharmacy team ensures that:

* drugs are prepared and ready on time
* drugs for intravenous use are made in a clean environment
* drugs are used properly, safely and cost-effectively
* nurses and others on the health care team have the information they need to give drugs safely and effectively

*The health care we want to provide for the people we serve must be safe, high quality, accessible, person- centered. It must be a team effort. No single health profession can achieve this goal alone.*

*Carol A. Aschenbrener*