One in nine emergency room visits are due to medication adverse events and two thirds are preventable.\(^1\) The cost of misuse, underuse, and overuse of medications ranges from $2 billion to $9 billion per year.\(^2\) Pharmacists can help reduce this by checking prescriptions for appropriateness.

In the CCC model, “checking” is a systematic thought process used to ensure the medication is appropriate for the patient. “Checking” differentiates a pharmacist’s clinical role from a regulated technician’s role. Pharmacists check for the appropriateness of therapy while regulated technicians ensure the accuracy of the prescription dispensed. Once you start assessing appropriateness, you will be able to enhance the care you provide.

Pharmacists are traditionally very good at ensuring a dose is safe and that there are no interactions or contraindications with a prescription. With “chat and check,” pharmacists are gathering additional information and expanding their assessments by also questioning indication, effectiveness, and usage/adherence. Pharmacists who routinely gather more information and assess accordingly may detect and potentially resolve more patient problems.

The Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians require pharmacists to assess each prescription for appropriateness and determine whether there is a drug therapy problem. The “check” tool consists of four questions used to evaluate therapy (4QETs).\(^3\)

The answers to these four questions will help you determine whether or not therapy is appropriate.

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