

November 12, 2008

Pharmacy Resident's Medication Therapy Advice Shows High Return on Investment

A pharmacy resident yielded a 70% return on investment (a \$1,550 net benefit) by providing medication therapy management services in an assisted living facility, according to a study published in *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy* in November 2008.¹ The study was conducted from October 2006 to April 2007 at a 149-bed Midwestern assisted living facility.

After reviewing patient data and meeting face-to-face with patients for 30 minutes to one hour, the postgraduate year 1 pharmacy resident made 125 drug therapy recommendations to patients' primary healthcare providers, 2.7 per patient. Providers addressed 72 of those recommendations, accepting 65 and rejecting seven. The remaining recommendations were not addressed.

The top three interventions recommended by the pharmacy resident involved missing drug therapy (31), appropriateness of doses (30), and adverse drug reactions or adherence issues (20). "Appropriateness of doses" was the category most addressed by patients' primary healthcare providers.

The study is available at

<http://www.theannals.com/cgi/content/abstract/42/11/1613>

1. Maack B, Miller DR, Johnson T, et al. Economic impact of a pharmacy resident in an assisted living facility-based medication therapy management program. *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy*. 2008; 42:1613-20.

To View ASHP's Policy Alert Archive click <http://www.ashp.org/policy-alert>.

Questions about ASHP Health Policy Alerts can be directed to Lisa Daigle, policy analyst, at (301) 664-8651 or ldaigle@ashp.org.

ASHP Health Policy Alerts are synopses of new studies highlighting the medication-use process in health care, especially studies assessing contemporary pharmacists' role in improving medication-use outcomes. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists encourages recipients to keep a copy of this synopsis for future reference.

