

Vaccination and Primary Healthcare- Pharmacy in Focus

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Objectives

- Primary Healthcare Background
- Roles of Pharmacists in Primary Healthcare
- Current Global Assessment of Pharmacists Involvement in Vaccination
- Pharmacists' Role in Vaccination
- The Way Forward

Primary Healthcare Background

“Pharmacists are dedicated to the preservation and advancement of public health. Their efforts enhance the quality of your lives by helping us to live as free as possible from diseases, pain and suffering”

-Quote from Pharmacists,
Unsung Heroes,
WLIW New York, 2005



Primary Healthcare Background

- A whole society approach that includes
 - Health promotion
 - Disease prevention
 - Treatment
 - Rehabilitation
 - Palliative care
- Focuses on the overall and interconnected components of physical, mental, and social health and wellbeing, as well as the larger determinants of health.
- Provides whole-person care for health requirements throughout a person's life, rather than solely for a specific diseases.
- Requires that people receive quality, comprehensive care feasible to their everyday environment



Roles of a Pharmacists in Primary Healthcare

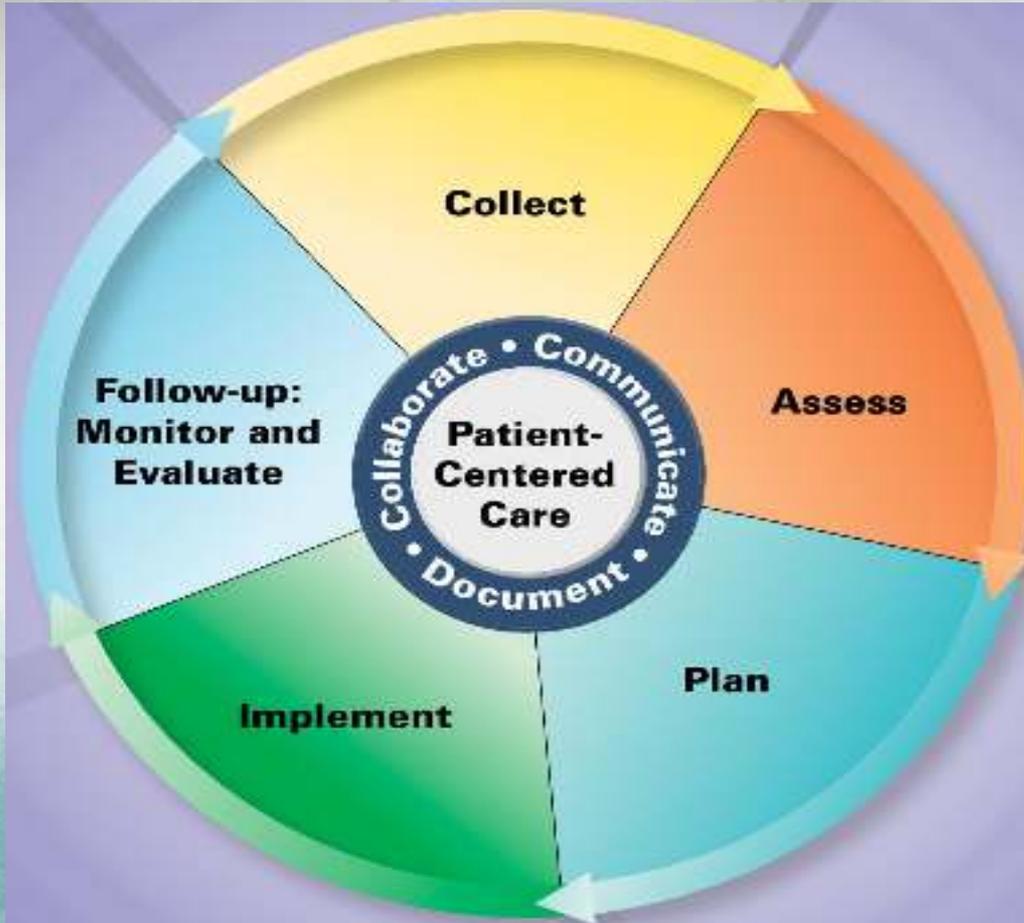
- Primary healthcare services should be comprehensive, coordinated, and continuously provided over time by individuals or a team of healthcare professionals according to the patient's needs
- Pharmacists have a role in meeting the primary care needs of patients by fulfilling their responsibilities to provide pharmaceutical care and, in states where authorized, through their expanded collaborative drug therapy management
- Pharmacists establish relationships with patients to ensure the appropriateness of medication therapy and patients' understanding of their therapy, and to monitor the effects of that therapy



Applying the Pharmacists' Patient Care Process to Immunization Services

- Relating the Pharmacists' Patient Care Process (PPCP) to immunization services is aimed at adapting the PPCP's general model, which includes **collecting, assessing, planning, implementing, and following up through monitoring and evaluation**
- A pharmacist can use the PPCP knowledge to assess or evaluate patients' vaccination needs, as well as make any other determination that could impact the administration of the vaccinations required

Pharmacists' Patient Care Process



Pharmacists' Patient Care Process

Pharmacists use a patient-centered approach in collaboration with other providers on the health care team to optimize patient health and medication outcomes.

Using principles of evidence-based practice, pharmacists:

Collect

The pharmacist assures the collection of the necessary subjective and objective information about the patient in order to understand the relevant medical/ medication history and clinical status of the patient.

Assess

The pharmacist assesses the information collected and analyzes the clinical effects of the patient's therapy in the context of the patient's overall health goals in order to identify and prioritize problems and achieve optimal care.

Plan

The pharmacist develops an individualized patient-centered care plan, in collaboration with other health care professionals and the patient or caregiver that is evidence-based and cost-effective.

Implement

The pharmacist implements the care plan in collaboration with other health care professionals and the patient or caregiver.

Follow-up: Monitor and Evaluate

The pharmacist monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of the care plan and modifies the plan in collaboration with other health care professionals and the patient or caregiver as needed.

A Pharmacist's Position

Patient-specific services

- Patient education
- Drug Interaction
- Drug therapy monitoring
- Drug & disease management
- Drug information
- **Vaccination**
- Collaborative practice agreement

Facility-specific services

- Documentation
- Protocol, guidelines, & policy development and review
- Research
- Medication safety
- Formulary management and financial stewardship

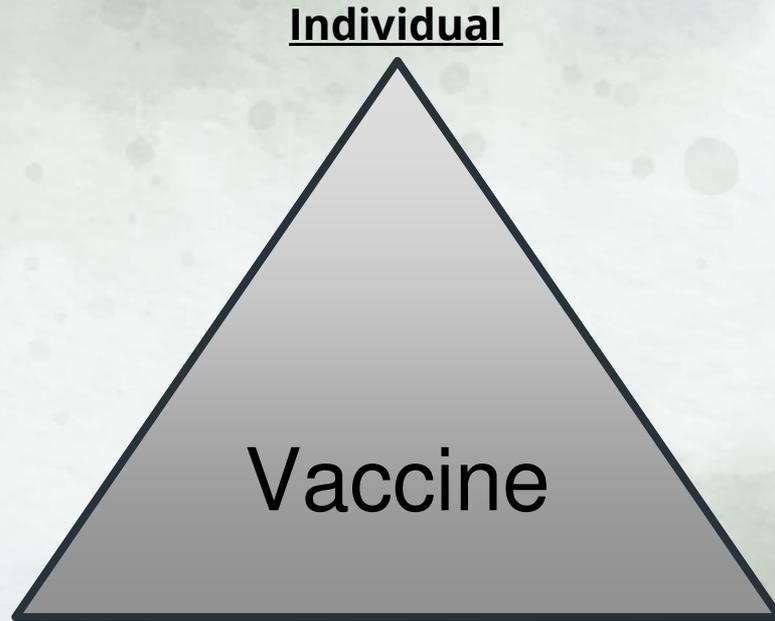
Global services

- Governmental and societal committees and agencies
- Societal guidelines and policy development
- Legal consultations
- Public health initiatives

Pharmacists' Competencies & Skills

- Professionalism
- Accountability
- Responding to change
- Drug information
- **Vaccination**
- Patient education
- Clinical interventions
- Pharmaceutical care
- Medication safety
- Patient- & family-centered care

Three Effective Cornerstones of Immunization Practice



Healthcare Providers

Private and State healthcare institutions/organizations (Hospitals, outpatient clinics, doctor's office, family practice physicians, **pharmacists**, etc.)

Regulatory Authorities and Supporting Organizations

Ministry of Health, Private Insurance Companies, Associations, Foundations, Non-governmental organizations

Current Global Assessment of Pharmacists' Involvement in Vaccination



Current Global Assessment of Pharmacists' Involvement in Vaccination

- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that vaccinations prevent between two and three million deaths each year
- Due to the devastation and unprecedented loss of human lives caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the human race is saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that everyone gets vaccinated
- Due to emerging changes currently seen in healthcare worldwide, countries are taking the initiative to expand pharmacists' roles to include responsibilities such as vaccination, prescribing rights, and drug therapy management
- Pharmacists are perceived as affordable, easily accessible, and trusted healthcare providers, which explains why, globally, patients first seek care from pharmacies and drug shops

Current Global Assessment of Pharmacists' Involvement in Vaccination

- Pharmacies also operate on a more flexible schedule, making them more attractive to patients who are under strict time constraints
- Countries such as the U.S, Argentina, Australia, the Philippines, South Africa, and the U.K have legally authorized vaccination by pharmacists

Goals of Providing Vaccination Services

- **Increase global prevention of death and disease through safe and effective vaccination**
 - Although immunization services have been remarkably successful in preventing deaths among persons of all ages, substantial challenges remain
- **Develop new and improved vaccines**
 - Vaccine research and development as well as the implementation of effective vaccine delivery programs have led to the eradication and elimination of several once-common serious infectious diseases
- **Amplify the vaccine safety system**
 - Vaccine safety is a key element of any immunization program. It is pertinent to identify and minimize the occurrence of adverse events from vaccines in a timely manner
- **Ensure a stable supply of, access to, and better use of recommended vaccines**
 - Ensuring a reliable and steady supply of all vaccines is critical to efforts geared towards vaccine-preventable diseases and deaths

Pharmacists' Role in Vaccination Services

- **Advocator**
 - Educating and motivating patients
- **Facilitator**
 - Hosting others who vaccinate
- **Immunizer**
 - Administering vaccinations

Pharmacists' Role in Vaccination Services

- Provision of effective vaccination is a fundamental concept for the prevention and/or eradication of communicable diseases
- As practitioners on the frontline, pharmacists can address barriers relating to immunization and vaccine hesitancy
- Pharmacists can initiate discussions about immunization with patients, provide vaccine, disease state education, and ultimately make recommendations
- These vaccination practices are consistent with the preventive aspects of pharmaceutical treatment and have been practiced in pharmacy for many years

Position of Healthcare in Nigeria

- **In Nigeria, pharmacy is evolving from a product-oriented practice with traditional roles of medicine distribution and counseling to a patient-oriented practice, while more focus is being placed on clinical pharmacy roles.**
- Despite this evolution, Nigeria needs more high-quality healthcare professionals to meet the health needs of her 173 million people

Position of Healthcare in Nigeria

- **There is a shortage of healthcare workers in Nigeria:**
 - Around 20 nurses, midwives, and doctors for every 10,000 people; less than the minimum recommended by the World Health Organization to provide adequate access to care. As a result of this shortage, there's vaccination gaps in many communities
- About 95% of pharmacies in Nigeria are small and medium-sized enterprises with their own brick-and-mortar retail outlets. The bulk of these organizations operate in "silos" from the country's Primary Health Care (PHC) structure. As a result, efforts to attain universal health coverage are hampered by a lack of data on community pharmacists' contributions to PHC, as well as a shortage of human resources for health care

Justification for Pharmacists' Involvement in Immunization

01

Front line patient care practitioners

02

Burden reduction on other health care practitioners and convenient hours

03

Easy accessibility for patients' vaccination needs

Front Line Patient Care Practitioners

- Pharmacists are well positioned to provide education and vaccination services to clients
- Pharmacists can begin conversations with patients regarding vaccinations, provide vaccine and disease education, and can make recommendations.

Burden Reduction on Other Health Care Practitioners

- Patients tend to take advantage of opportunities to be vaccinated at times of the day that are outside of physicians' office or clinic operating hours



Easy Accessibility for Patients' Vaccination Needs

- Empowering pharmacists to provide vaccinations provides easy accessibility to needful patients who can conveniently walk up to a nearby pharmacy



Gaps of Pharmacists' Involvement in Vaccination Efforts in Nigeria

- Pharmacists are not authorized to vaccinate people in Nigeria
- Colleges and schools of pharmacy in Nigeria do not have vaccination education and training as part of their academic curriculum
- The deficiencies in immunization education and training in Nigerian colleges and schools of pharmacy may contribute to low immunization rates
- Multi-disciplinary team approach to provision of clinical pharmacy services is still evolving

The Way Forward

- Although the curricula for pharmacy schools in Nigeria are reviewed continually with the aim of attaining the dynamic competency required to reflect the paradigm shift in service focus, there still exists missing gaps critical to the development of the necessary clinical skills that will enable pharmacists to identify and meet the increasingly complex medication and vaccination needs of patients
- Considering the advancements witnessed today in pharmacy education all over the globe, changes in pharmacy education curriculum and training in Nigeria's schools of pharmacy are imperative to address the societies' ever-evolving, medicine-related needs
- The Nigerian Association of Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists of America (NAPPSA) will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders in Nigeria on vaccination

A cartoon illustration of a hand holding a sign. The hand is brown with green gloves. The sign is yellow with a black border and contains the text 'THANK YOU!' in bold black letters. The background is a light blue and green watercolor texture.

**THANK
YOU!**

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