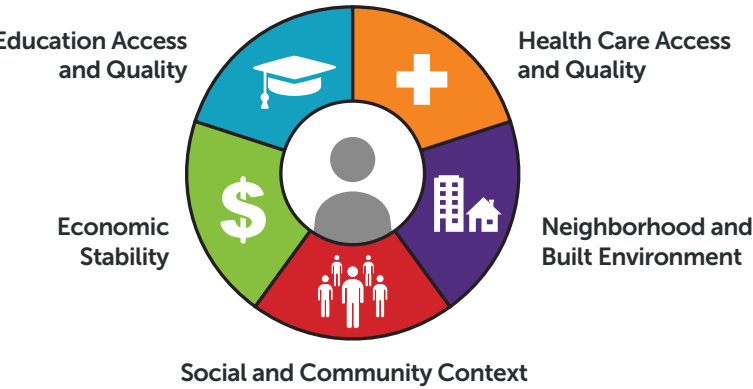


PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



The CDC defines **social determinants of health (SDOH)** as the “nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes,” including the “conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.”¹

The risk of mental illness is closely tied to SDOH, including poverty, stress, unemployment, and more.² Psychiatric pharmacists can improve health outcomes for people negatively impacted by SDOH.

HOW PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS IMPACT HEALTH CARE ACCESS & QUALITY

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH (SDOH)	Healthy People 2030 Statistic	Psychiatric Pharmacists...
Psychiatric Provider Shortage ³	About a third of adults with serious mental illness , like schizophrenia or depression, are not receiving treatment . ^{4,5}	...Collaborate with psychiatrists to manage medications , extending their reach.
Need for Quality Improvement in Health Care	About 16% of older adults use inappropriate medications and the number of fall-related deaths is increasing . ^{6,7}	... Are medication experts , trained to simplify regimens and make them safer. Inappropriate medications can increase the risk of falling, impair cognition, and may be risk factors for dementia . ⁸

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS EXTEND THE REACH OF PSYCHIATRIC CARE



JAMES has schizophrenia, a serious mental illness, and takes a highly effective medication called clozapine which can cause rare but serious side effects. James lives in rural Virginia, more than 30 minutes from his psychiatrist in Richmond. He is seen by the psychiatric pharmacist in a rural clozapine clinic, a dedicated service for patients just like James. In collaboration with James’ psychiatrist, the psychiatric pharmacist orders and reviews laboratory monitoring to assess for side effects like increased cholesterol and blood sugar and low white blood cells.

The psychiatric pharmacist measures the amount of clozapine in James’ blood and optimizes the dose to ensure that his symptoms remain controlled. She educates James about the importance of taking his medication so he knows how to take it and what to expect throughout his treatment.

? **DID YOU KNOW** that psychiatric pharmacists author over 50 patient medication fact sheets that receive over 5 million views annually on the **National Alliance on Mental Illness** website?¹¹

HOW PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS IMPACT PUBLIC HEALTH

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH (SDOH)	Healthy People 2030 Statistic	Psychiatric Pharmacists...
Reading Comprehension / Poor Health Literacy	43 million US adults have poor literacy skills. ⁹ Health literacy is an emerging priority. ¹⁰	... Simplify complicated medication information , because everyone deserves to know what medications they are taking, why they are taking them, and what the risks and benefits are.
Communication with Health Care Providers	Nearly 1 in 10 adults report poor communication with their health care providers. ¹²	...Engage patients in shared decision making , which can improve adherence and patient satisfaction. ¹³

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS IMPACT EDUCATION ACCESS AND QUALITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH



MARTINA coordinates the naloxone distribution and education program for the county health department. Martina works closely with a psychiatric pharmacist to review a new naloxone education handout and presentation for medical accuracy. The psychiatric pharmacist assists Martina by providing educational classes to members of the community about how to use and obtain naloxone.

This helps the public learn how they can help combat the opioid overdose epidemic and ultimately reduce the number of opioid-related deaths in their community.

? **DID YOU KNOW** that pharmacists are among the **most trusted** health care professionals?¹⁴

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS IMPACT ECONOMIC STABILITY

SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH (SDOH)	Healthy People 2030 Statistic	Psychiatric Pharmacists...
Food Insecurity	While the number of households with food insecurity are improving, ¹⁵ food insecurity is highly prevalent among people with severe mental illness. ¹⁶	... Screen and refer patients with food insecurity to community resources (e.g., supplemental nutrition assistance programs). ... Educate patients on the minimum amount of food required for medication to work and may recommend alternative medications for patients with food insecurity.
Inability to Afford Prescription Medications	While the number of people who can’t access medications due to cost is improving, ¹⁷ cost remains a barrier to accessing medications for many patients with severe mental illness, especially among those that are uninsured or underinsured.	... Assist patients in accessing manufacturer assistance programs, optimize Medicare Part D coverage, and make recommendations to providers for lower cost alternatives.

PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS IMPACT ECONOMIC INSTABILITY



ASHLEY is struggling to afford a new medication, which must be taken with food for adequate absorption. Her psychiatric pharmacist helps her obtain the medication for less by helping her apply for the manufacturer’s medication assistance program. The psychiatric pharmacist screens Ashley for a number of social determinants of health and identifies that she struggles to afford food and eats infrequently.

He counsels her to take the medication with her largest meal of the day, ensures that she is consuming enough calories to allow the medication to be absorbed, and refers her to the team’s social worker for assistance with obtaining supplemental nutrition benefits.

? **DID YOU KNOW** that psychiatric pharmacists reduce the cost of health care?^{18,19}