

# Philosophy of Practice Self-Assessment

## Why have a philosophy of practice?

All professional patient care practices (e.g., medicine, nursing, dentistry) have a philosophy of practice that serves as the basis for all that occurs in practice. This philosophy of practice is a set of professional values that guide the patient care process and the practice management components of the professional practice.

## What is a philosophy of practice?

- A philosophy of practice lays the foundation for comprehensive medication management (CMM).
- For example, every parent adopts a parenting philosophy (e.g., "tough love") that guides their decisions, actions, and behaviors as a parent. Similarly, every pharmacist adopts a CMM philosophy of practice that guides their practice.
- This philosophy of practice is not tangible, which is why some may not realize they have one, but every pharmacist has a philosophy of practice that determines their behaviors, attitudes, and work as a practitioner.
- The philosophy of practice of CMM is a description of the underlying values that guide the practitioner.
- It articulates the role of the pharmacist and how they deliver care.
- It serves as a compass that guides the behavior of the practitioner, the decisions that he/she makes, and responsibilities.



## What is your philosophy of practice that describes you as a CMM practitioner?

*If you do not currently have one, please attempt to articulate it in the space below.*

Some questions to consider when forming your response may be:

- *What is my role to the patient?*
- *What is my role to my care team?*
- *What is my role to my community?*
- *What are my professional values?*

# Core Tenets of a Philosophy of Practice for CMM<sup>1</sup>:

## 1. Meeting a societal need

Professions exist for the purpose of serving society and, thus, it is important to consider how we, as pharmacists, are meeting the needs of society. We know that the quality of health care in the United States is suboptimal and that a significant contributor to poor quality care is the underuse, misuse, and overuse of medications. It is well documented that to improve national health care and lower health care costs, we must optimize medication use for patients and populations.

## 2. Assuming responsibility for optimizing medication use

If we are to meet the needs of patients and society, we must assume responsibility for all a patient's medication-related needs. This means delivering CMM consistently and holistically to ensure that patients are taking appropriate, effective, and safe medications and that they are taking them as intended. This is achieved through identification, prevention, and resolution of medication therapy problems (MTPs) to improve patient health. Applying a consistent approach to the CMM Patient Care Process includes collecting and analyzing relevant patient information, formulating an assessment and plan for improving medication therapy, implementing the patient care plan, and providing ongoing follow-up and monitoring.

## 3. Embracing a patient-centered approach

The Institute of Medicine defines patient-centered care as “providing care that is respectful of, and responsive to, individual patient preferences, needs and values, and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.” No aspect of the care that is delivered is done without including the patient.

## 4. Caring through an ongoing patient-pharmacist relationship

This is a partnership between the patient and the practitioner formed for the purpose of optimizing the patient's medication experience. This involves relating to individuals through active listening and with understanding, respect, and warmth. It is an ongoing relationship of trust between the patient and the pharmacist.

## 5. Working as a collaborative member of the health care team

Providing high quality, team-based care to individuals involves collaborating with members of the health care team on shared goals in and across care settings. Consistently meeting the medication-related needs of patients cannot occur without collaboration among the health care professions engaged in a patient's care. Therefore, it is essential that the pharmacist demonstrate a spirit of collaboration and embrace a team-based approach to care.

<sup>1</sup>Pestka DL, Sorge LA, McClurg MR, and Sorensen TD. The Philosophy of Practice for Comprehensive Medication Management: Evaluating Its Meaning and Application by Practitioners. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2018; 38(1): 69-79.

1 On a scale from 0 to 10, how well does your work as a CMM practitioner align with the tenet of **meeting a societal need**?



List 1-2 examples of how you carry out **meeting a societal need** through your work as a CMM practitioner.

If you marked less than a 10, what could be done to enhance the alignment of your CMM practice with **meeting a societal need**?

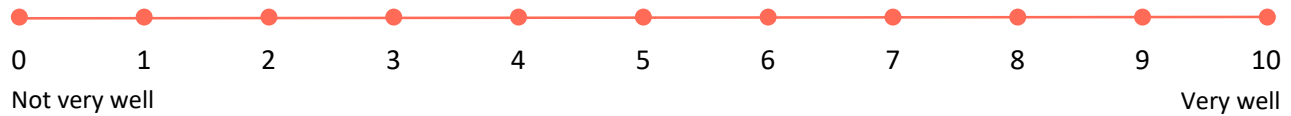
2 On a scale from 0 to 10, how well does your work as a CMM practitioner align with the tenet of **assuming responsibility for optimizing medication use**?



List 1-2 examples of how you carry out **assuming responsibility for optimizing medication use** through your work as a CMM practitioner.

If you marked less than a 10, what could be done to enhance the alignment of your CMM practice with **assuming responsibility for optimizing medication use**?

3 On a scale from 0 to 10, how well does your work as a CMM practitioner align with the tenet of **embracing a patient-centered approach**?



List 1-2 examples of how you carry out **embracing a patient-centered approach** through your work as a CMM practitioner.

If you marked less than a 10, what could be done to enhance the alignment of your CMM practice with **embracing a patient-centered approach**?

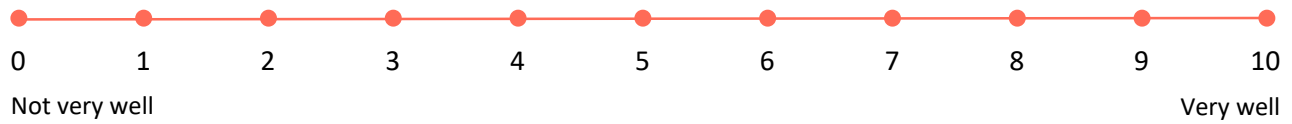
4 On a scale from 0 to 10, how well does your work as a CMM practitioner align with the tenet of **caring through an ongoing patient-pharmacist relationship**?



List 1-2 examples of how you carry out **caring through an ongoing patient-pharmacist relationship** through your work as a CMM practitioner.

If you marked less than a 10, what could be done to enhance the alignment of your CMM practice with **caring through an ongoing patient-pharmacist relationship**?

5 On a scale from 0 to 10, how well does your work as a CMM practitioner align with the tenet of **working as a collaborative member of the health care team**?



List 1-2 examples of how you carry out **working as a collaborative member of the health care team** through your work as a CMM practitioner.

If you marked less than a 10, what could be done to enhance the alignment of your CMM practice with **working as a collaborative member of the health care team**?

Based on the previous questions, please write your updated philosophy of practice below.

**Reference:** Pestka DL, Sorge LA, McClurg MR, and Sorensen TD. The Philosophy of Practice for Comprehensive Medication Management: Evaluating Its Meaning and Application by Practitioners. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2018; 38(1): 69-79.