**What is a clinical pharmacist?**

Clinical pharmacists work directly with physicians, other health professionals, and patients to ensure that the medications prescribed for patients contribute to the best possible health outcomes. Clinical pharmacists practice in health care settings where they have frequent and regular interactions with physicians and other health professionals, contributing to better coordination of care.

The clinical pharmacist is educated and trained in direct patient care environments, including medical centers, clinics and a variety of other health care settings. Clinical pharmacists are frequently granted patient care privileges by collaborating physicians and/or health systems that allow them to perform a full range of medication decision-making functions as part of the patient’s health care team. These privileges are granted on the basis of the clinical pharmacist’s demonstrated knowledge of medication therapy and record of clinical experience. This specialized knowledge and clinical experience is usually gained through residency training and specialist board certification.

**What do clinical pharmacist do?**

**Clinical pharmacists:**

* Assess the status of the patient’s health problems and determine whether the prescribed medications are optimally meeting the patient’s needs and goals of care.
* Evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the patient’s medications.
* Recognize untreated health problems that could be improved or resolved with appropriate medication therapy.
* Follow the patient’s progress to determine the effects of the patient’s medications on his or her health.
* Consult with the patient’s physicians and other health care providers in selecting the medication therapy that best meets the patient’s needs and contributes effectively to the overall therapy goals.
* Advise the patient on how to best take his/her medications.
* Support the health care team’s efforts to educate the patient and other important steps to improve or maintain health, such as exercise, diet, and preventive steps like immunization.
* Refer the patient to his or her physician or other health professionals to address specific health, wellness, or social services concerns as they arise.

Source: ACCP website (Jan 2016) https://www.accp.com/about/clinicalpharmacists.aspx