

**Mylan School of Pharmacy
Duquesne University**

Course Syllabus

**Division of Clinical, Social, & Administrative Sciences
Department of Pharmacy Administration**

**PHBAS 410
American Health Care Systems**

Spring 2004

I. Course Name:
American Health Care Systems

II. Course Number:
PHBAS 410

III. Credits: 2.0

IV. Course Faculty:

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V. Course Rationale:

The pharmacy profession has begun to shift from a product- to a patient-centered paradigm. But what does this mean? Progressing through the P-IV year of education, you are increasingly well-grounded in pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, and pharmaceuticals. You are beginning to integrate this knowledge with clinical skills, enabling you to make pharmacotherapy decisions and counsel patients on the appropriate use of drug products. However, knowledge of drug products and the diseases for which they are used to treat are only part of becoming an effective practitioner. You will be a health care *professional* contributing to the future of pharmacy, operating within a vast and complex health care system that is under increasing pressure and scrutiny to deliver services in a less costly manner. Studies have shown that effective pharmacy practice is facilitated by a keen grasp of health care delivery and management issues. This course is intended to help the student in these areas and to provide an overview of how health care decisions that involve you and your profession are made.

VI. Course Overview:

This course will introduce the student to the roles that pharmacists play in the delivery of health care across a wide variety of practice settings. It will explain the mechanisms by which pharmacists are reimbursed for their services in addition to the mechanisms by which other health services are administered and financed. The student will learn about the roles of government in the provision of health care, the role of professional organizations relevant to pharmacy practice, the manner in which physician and allied health services are organized, and the impact of managed care on pharmacists' practices. In addition, students will become familiar with current trends in epidemiology, the rise of certain infectious diseases, and the role of pharmacists within the context of public health. There will be also be provision for several classes to discuss current topics on issues affecting pharmacy.

VII. Course Time Commitments:

Class will meet for three, one-hour lectures per week from 9am to 10am. Some class sessions will involve student discussion and participation in activities or exercises. Students should expect to spend an average of three to four hours per week preparing for class examinations and discussions.

VIII. Prerequisite Courses: ϕ

IX. Prerequisite Knowledge:

Knowledge of rudimentary concepts in economics and management are helpful.

X. Attendance Policy:

Attendance at lectures is an important part of the learning process. It is expected, therefore, that all students will attend lectures in accordance with college and/or university regulations. Students will be held responsible for all announcements and assignments given during scheduled meeting times.

XI. Required Texts/Other Resources:

1. McCarthy RL, Schafermeyer KW eds. Introduction of Health Care Delivery—A Primer for Pharmacists, 2nd ed. Gaithersberg, Md: Aspen Publishers; 2001.

2. Journal articles on current issues and recent research findings on pharmacists' roles in health care delivery may be distributed in class as handouts or put on reserve in the library. You will be responsible for this material. On the occasion that a student misses a class in which a handout was distributed, he/she is responsible for obtaining his/her own copy of that handout.

XII. Recommended:

1. There will be materials placed on reserve on the library whose purpose is to supplement the lecture and the readings assigned from the required text. While it is not mandatory to view these materials, some students may find them quite helpful.

2. The instructor will make suggestions on where to obtain more information on certain subject materials. This may include texts, articles, and websites of government agencies or professional associations. Although this material will not be directly tested, it may assist the student in gaining a further understanding of concepts or obtaining specific details not covered in class.

XIII. Additional Suggested Readings:

Current issues of the *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, *Pharmacy Today*, *American Journal of Health-Systems Pharmacists*, *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy*, *Drug Topics*, *U.S. Pharmacist*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*

XIV. This Course Will Contribute Directly to Your Ability to Meet the Following General Ability-Based Competencies:

1. Critical thinking and decision-making abilities
2. Communication abilities
3. Social awareness and social responsibility
4. Self-learning abilities and habits
5. Social interaction and citizenship
6. Responsible use of values and ethical principles (Level 1)

XV. The Material Mastered From This Course Will be Useful in Meeting the Following Professional Competencies:

- 1.4 e. The student shall utilize preventive strategies and epidemiological research to manage public health problems.
- 1.4 g. The student shall describe the major components of the American health care system and relate them to the delivery of pharmaceutical care.
- 6.1 The student shall describe strategies for adapting professional practice to a changing health care environment.
 - 6.1 a. The student shall be able to describe various types of pharmacy practice.
 - 6.1 b. The student shall be able to identify internal and external forces that affect pharmacy practice.
- 6.2 c. The student shall apply principles of pharmacoeconomics.

XVI. Learning/Behavioral Objectives:

Upon successful completion of all course components, including attending class, reading assignments, and passing examinations, the student should be able to:

1. Provide a brief history of the major societal and legislative influences on the current practice of pharmacy and pharmaceutical education.
2. Discuss the mechanism by which patients enter the health care system. Distinguish between primary, secondary, and tertiary care.
3. Distinguish among various mechanisms of provider reimbursement for health care services.
4. Identify components of patient cost-sharing with traditional indemnity and third-party payment plans.
5. Discuss health resource utilization controls employed by third party payers.
6. Discuss the role of federal, state, and local governments in providing funds for and contributing toward the health of Americans.
7. Differentiate between various types of managed care organizations in their ownership, administration, and their implementation of various cost and utilization control techniques.
8. Discuss the relationship between managed care organizations, health care providers, employer groups, benefits managers, and patients.
9. Define capitation as a method of reimbursement. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of various reimbursement mechanisms for health care providers. Describe the effects of capitation and other types of reimbursement on the behavior of providers, patients, and employers.
10. Define pharmaceutical care. Discuss the difference between a “product” and “patient” orientation.
11. Identify the roles of physicians and other allied health professionals. Discuss how pharmacists interact, collaborate with, and in some cases, compete, with these professionals.
12. Identify the roles hospitals as institutions where care is provided. Identify the types of hospitals which exist. Discuss the types of care provided by hospitals.
13. Discuss the governance of hospitals. Discuss the interaction among various administrators, committees and other key personnel in policy development.
14. Discuss the credentialing of physicians at hospitals and the mechanisms by which patients are admitted to and discharged from a hospital.
15. Discuss the roles of nurses at hospitals. Identify the chain of command the responsibilities of various types of nurses at the hospital.

16. Identify the hospital pharmacy's roles. Describe the responsibilities of hospital pharmacists and how these are carried out.
17. Discuss the drug distribution process at a hospital.
18. Identify the roles of the Joint Commission in accrediting and assessing the quality of hospitals and hospital pharmacies.
19. Discuss the pharmacist as a key component in ambulatory care. Discuss the typical day-to-day duties and responsibilities of a community pharmacist.
20. Discuss the processes by which personnel in community pharmacy carry out all of the functions necessary for it to operate.
21. Identify opportunities pharmacists to provide cognitive services in emerging markets in health care.
22. Discuss the roles of pharmacists in long-term and home health care. Discuss the structure and purpose of long-term care.
23. Discuss the responsibilities of a consultant pharmacist.
24. Discuss the impact of the pharmaceutical industry on health care delivery and pharmacy. Briefly discuss the new drug discovery process and pharmaceutical marketing.
26. Discuss the ethical responsibilities of pharmacists as professionals in society.
27. Discuss the impact of automation and new technologies of pharmacy practice.
28. Identify various health care reform measures currently underway in state governments and in the federal government. Discuss other reform initiatives being proposed.
29. Compare and contrast some key elements of other nations' health care structure with that of the United States.
30. Identify the mission, purpose, and goals for various professional pharmacy organizations.
31. Discuss the phenomenon of direct-to-consumer advertising (DTCA) and its impact on pharmacy practice and the medication use process.

XVII.

Course Assessment:

A. Examinations—multiple-choice and short-answer exams, each with the same weight.

Exam One 100 points

Exam Two 100 points

Total = 200 points*

B. Note: The instructor reserves the right to implement an in-class exercise/activity toward the end of the course, whose possible points will not exceed 10% of the total points for the course.*

C. There will be opportunities for bonus points by participating in class and obtaining “bonus cards.” Students may also select from assignments including the evaluation of direct-to-consumer prescription drug advertisements and/or a term paper on the Medicare prescription drug legislation. Details of these assignments will be provided at a later date.

XVIII.

Grading Policy:

The following grade scheme will be used:

A ≥ 89.5%

B+ 84.5 - 89.4%

B 79.5 - 84.4%

C+ 74.5 - 79.4%

C 69.5 - 74.4%

F ≤69.4%

Tentative Schedule of Classes/Events

| Date | Topic | Readings |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| M Jan 12 | Introduction and overview; Orientation for Service-Learning | HCD 01† |
| W Jan 14 | What is a “health care professional? & Interdisciplinary care | HCD 02 articles |
| F Jan 16 | What is “. . .” (continued); Models of health care | HCD 02 & 04 articles |
| M Jan 19 W Jan 21 | Dr. Martin Luthur King Holiday—no classes Models of health care (con’t) and Pharmaceutical care as a management movement | HCD 03 articles |
| F Jan 23 | Overview of the health care system | articles |

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| M Jan 26 | Private health care insurance | HCD 18 articles |
| W Jan 28 | Private health care insurance (con't) | HCD 18 articles |
| F Jan 30 | Managed care | HCD 21 articles |
| M Feb 02 | Managed care (cont'd) | HCD 21 articles |
| W Feb 04 | Managed care (cont'd) | HCD 21 articles |
| F Feb 06 | Pharmacy benefits management | articles |
| M Feb 09 | Pharmacy benefits management (cont'd) | articles |
| W Feb 11 | Guest Speaker—Kevin J. Lynch, PharmD, BCPS Clinical Education Consultant (Pfizer) “The Value of Pharmaceuticals” | |
| F Feb 13 | Pharmacy benefits management (cont'd) | articles |
| M Feb 16 | Tentative Exam One Date/Review | |
| W Feb 18 | Medicare and Medicaid | HCD 19 & 20 |
| F Feb 20 | Medicare and Medicaid (cont'd) | HCD 19 & 20 |
| M Feb 23 | Ambulatory/community pharmacy | articles |
| W Feb 25 | Hospitals | HCD 08 |
| F Mar 27 | Hospitals (cont'd) | HCD 08 |
| M Mar 01 | Community pharmacy operations and store layout (Tom Lawlor from Walgreen's) | no readings assigned |
| W Mar 03 | Hospitals (cont'd) | HCD 08 |
| F Mar 05 | Long-term care | HCD 10 articles |
| M-F Mar 08-12 | Sprink break | |

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| M Mar 15 | Home health care | HCD 12 articles |
| W Mar 17 | Internet and mail-order pharmacy (Ms. Nath) | articles |
| F Mar 19 | Government agencies and public health | no readings assigned |
| M Mar 22 | Pharmacy organizations | HCD 03 |
| W Mar 24 | Direct-to-consumer advertising | articles |
| TBA | FINAL EXAMINATION | |

†McCarthy RL, Schafermeyer KW eds. Introduction to Health Care Delivery—A Primer for Pharmacists, 2nd ed. Gaithersberg, Md: Aspen Publishers; 2001.