

Department Spotlight

Pharmacy

The CHI Oakes Hospital Pharmacy Department consists of:

Angie Williams, RPh, Pharm D, Director of Pharmacy
(Full-time)

Tara Schmitz, RPh, Pharm D (Part-time)

Jenny Onchuck, Certified Pharmacy Tech (Full-time)

Bobbi Woodbury, Certified Pharmacy Tech (Full-time)

Maggie Orn, Pharmacy Intern functioning as a Tech (Part-time)



Pharmacy staff is on-site and available Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm. Pharmacy coverage is available via tele-pharmacy all other hours including weekends.

Pharmacist responsibilities include verifying accuracy and appropriateness of physician-entered orders, continually monitoring patient safety related to medication use, and dosing medications based on patient's current medical state. Pharmacists will make medication recommendations to physicians, counsel patients concerning medication changes and concerns, and complete medication reconciliations. New medications are continually being approved by the FDA for all medical conditions and a pharmacist is always learning about the best available medications for the patients both in the hospital and when they return to their home.

Pharmacy technician's responsibilities include picking medications that have been ordered and delivering them to the patient's server or his/her nurse and mixing IV medications in the pharmacy's sterile mixing hood. Technicians are responsible for medication inventory management involving ordering, maintaining adequate inventory, pulling expired medications, and stocking the Pyxis dispensing units. Jenny, Bobbi and Maggie audit patient billing daily. Our pharmacy technicians multi-task on a daily basis by completing their daily tasks in addition to fielding any and all questions brought to them by nursing staff and all other departments.

In February 2015, the pharmacy department was instrumental in setting up a new Pyxis medication dispensing system which replaced the Omnicell units. These Pyxis units allow for accurate dispensing of medications by nursing at all times in addition to strict inventory control for pharmacy purposes. Thank you to everyone who uses the Pyxis machines for your willingness to learn a new system, for your understanding when processes needed to be tweaked during and after implementation, and for continuing to inform pharmacy staff when improvements can be made.

At our hospital, we have implemented and maintained a 340B Program which benefits both the hospital and the local retail pharmacies. Assistance has been provided by Monica Ptacek, Director of Ancillary Services, in this 340B Program due to all of the policies and paperwork involved in maintaining this program – thank you, Monica.

Angie is a member of the Risk/Safety Committee and attends quarterly P & T meetings. Angie and Tara mentor pharmacy students throughout the year. Jenny prepares the required monthly pharmacy reports. Bobbi is a member of the Service Excellence Committee. Maggie is a pharmacy student at SDSU. She joined our team in June 2015 and has been a fabulous asset to our staff. We will miss her as she returns to school the end of August.

All of us in the pharmacy department work as a team to provide the best patient care possible. This is accomplished through efficiency, accuracy, and communication within our department and all of the healthcare providers at CHI Oakes Hospital.