

# PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS

Improving access, outcomes and cost



**43%**  
shortage of  
psychiatrists  
by 2037

HRSA, 2024



**59**  
million adults  
experience  
mental illness  
in a given year

HRSA, 2024



**\$329**  
billion are  
spent on  
mental health  
annually

Open Minds, 2023

Psychiatric pharmacists are advanced practice clinical pharmacists who specialize in mental health care. With an extensive knowledge of medication management, they are skilled at treating the whole patient. They strengthen the mental health team by working directly with patients, improving outcomes and saving lives.

**75%**

of physicians find  
their jobs to be easier when  
the primary care team  
includes a  
clinical pharmacist.

JAPhA, 2017

**12 to 1**

Up to \$12 cost reduction  
for every \$1 invested in  
pharmacist-provided  
medication management  
services.

USPHS, 2011

## PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS ADD UNIQUE VALUE

### Part of the team, part of the treatment.

In collaboration with the health care team, patients, and caregivers, psychiatric pharmacists:



**PRESCRIBE\*** or recommend  
appropriate medications



**RESOLVE** drug interactions



**EVALUATE** responses and  
modify treatment



**SUPPORT** medication adherence



**MANAGE** medication  
adverse reactions



**PROVIDE** medication education

\*Prescriptive and practice authority varies by state and practice setting.



### EXPANDED PHARMACY EDUCATION

- **6-8 YEARS** Undergraduate and Doctor of Pharmacy Degrees
- **1 YEAR** General Pharmacy Residency
- **1 YEAR** Psychiatric Residency
- **CERTIFY** by examination



**Board-Certified  
Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP)**

(+ recertification every 7 years)

### COMMON PLACES OF PRACTICE



Government supported hospitals or clinics (VA, Dept. of Defense, state)



Public, private, and academic hospitals



Outpatient mental health clinics



Outpatient primary care clinics



Prisons and correctional facilities

### TYPES OF MEDICATION-RELATED PROBLEMS RESOLVED BY PHARMACISTS

Medication Management Systems, 2010



- **30.9%** Untreated condition
- **22.8%** Inadequate dose
- **13.5%** Poor adherence
- **12.6%** Adverse reaction
- **8.8%** Ineffective medication
- **5.8%** Unnecessary medication

**38%**

improvement in patient  
depression response rates  
when working with a  
psychiatric pharmacist.

JPP, 2016

This information brought to you by the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP), a professional association representing psychiatric pharmacists nationwide. Our members integrate into teams of health care professionals, making a difference in overall costs, treatment efficiencies, patient recovery and quality of life.

More information and references available at [AAPP.org/392646](http://AAPP.org/392646).

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American Association  
of Psychiatric Pharmacists

