

# HCT Clinical Pharmacist Role Description

## Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to educate healthcare professionals, hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) program staff, and pharmacy leadership about the specialty role of the HCT clinical pharmacist.

The HCT clinical pharmacist is an integral member of the multidisciplinary HCT team who provides a variety of pharmacy and educational services to the healthcare team, the patient, and caregivers in an effort to optimize collaborative, patient-centered care focused on patient safety.<sup>1</sup>

## Educational background:

Many pharmacists working in HCT usually have a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree from an accredited school of pharmacy. Further training may consist of many years of professional practice in HCT, a postgraduate pharmacy practice residency, and/or a postgraduate oncology pharmacy practice residency. They are licensed by their state's governing board and are required to complete continuing education in order to maintain their licensure. Furthermore, many pharmacists working in HCT obtain board certification in oncology pharmacy (BCOP).

## Core competencies:

- Medication management, including specialized knowledge of high-dose antineoplastics and infectious disease
- Chemotherapy and medication counseling
- Symptom management
- Therapeutic drug monitoring
- Discharge planning and transitions of care
- Policy and guideline development
- Education of team members, trainees, patients and families
- Evidence-based program development and evaluation

## HCT Clinical Pharmacist interventions aim to:

- Optimize patient outcomes by providing comprehensive medication management, including economical provision of medication related care

- Maximize patient and caregiver comprehension of medication administration and side effects
- Provide the multidisciplinary team with evidence-based clinical decision support

## HCT Clinical Pharmacist Activities:

### Medication management and monitoring

- Provide thorough patient medication profile review
- Participate in interdisciplinary rounding
- Manage chemotherapy processes:
  - Assistance with treatment planning and review or preparation of order set and policy documents
- Assist with therapeutic drug monitoring:
  - Immunosuppressants, anti-infectives, anti-seizure medications, anticoagulants, chemotherapeutic agents (e.g. busulfan), etc.
- Provide medication therapy management:
  - Diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, etc.
- Manage anti-infective therapies and promote stewardship:
  - Prophylaxis and treatment recommendations
  - Monitoring

### Patient Care

- Assist in symptom management:
  - Supportive care
  - Pain/palliative care
- Optimize graft-versus-host disease management
- Facilitate post-transplant vaccine administration

### Transition Planning

- Assist with transitions of care:
  - Provide medication reconciliation
  - Collaborate on discharge planning and management
- Facilitate transitions to hospice/palliative care where appropriate
- Facilitate access to medications available through patient assistance programs

### Education

- Patients and caregivers
- Health care providers and trainees

## HCT Clinical Pharmacist Activities (cont.):

### Research and Quality Improvement

- Contribute to institutional and collaborative research and scholarly activities
- Assist with policy and guideline development
- Serve as patient and professional advocate
- Monitor, evaluate, and report transplant-related outcomes to assist in improvements to clinical practice

## **Key points**

### **HCT Clinical Pharmacists:**

- Are integral members of the HCT multidisciplinary team
- Utilize evidence-based medicine in clinical practice
- Are experts in providing complex, economical, and thorough medication management

References: <http://www.asbmt.org/?page=PharmacySIG>. Accessed October 27, 2015.

The following organizations have endorsed the *HCT Clinical Pharmacist Role Description*:



This *HCT Clinical Pharmacist Role Description* was developed by the Pharmacy Special Interest Group of ASBMT - 2016.

The System Capacity Initiative, led by the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match®, is a collaborative effort to enable our healthcare system to accommodate the growing number of patients in need of hematopoietic cell transplant.