



## **Definition of clinical pharmacy in a hospital setting according to the GSASA**

### Short definition :

Clinical pharmacy is an area of pharmacy aimed at developing and promoting an appropriate, safe and cost-effective use of therapeutic products.

In the hospital setting, clinical pharmacy includes direct patient oriented pharmaceutical activities, implemented on patient care wards in collaboration with other health care professionals.

Clinical pharmacists have a dedicated training program in this field and assume the responsibility of their interventions.

### Extensive definition:

Clinical pharmacy is an area of pharmacy aimed at developing and promoting an appropriate, safe and cost-effective use of therapeutic products.

In the hospital setting, clinical pharmacy includes direct patient oriented pharmaceutical activities, developed on patient care wards in collaboration with other healthcare professionals. The pharmacist must demonstrate competencies in the corresponding specialties of the service (pediatrics, neurology, ICU, etc) or of the area (pain management, diabetes, infectious diseases, etc). He or she is part of a multidisciplinary team, is present on the ward on a daily basis or as a regular consultant for the different services.

Clinical pharmacists have a dedicated training program in this field and assume the responsibility of their interventions.

The activities of clinical pharmacy are organized along three axes.

1) Patient-related axis: To collaborate in patient education and continuity of care.

- Medication history;
- Therapeutic adherence;
- Transition to the ambulatory setting and education on discharge medication.

2) Treatment-related axis: Analysis of drug therapy to optimize and reduce over-, under- and misuse of medicines, taking into account the aspects mentioned under 1.

- Choice of medication including a risk/benefit analysis (including drug interactions and predictable side effects) and cost/effectiveness;
- Indications and completeness of treatment;
- Contraindications according to the pathophysiological state;
- Adaptation and individualization of treatment.

3) Processes-related axis: To consolidate the drug supply chain to ensure that the patient receives the right medication at the right time as prescribed.

- Support of good prescribing practices,
- Development of guidelines on the preparation and administration of medication;
- Development of treatment guidelines in collaboration with medical and nursing teams in the departments involved;
- Development of computerized decision support systems for the prescription and administration of drugs;
- Prevention and documentation of adverse drug events on the ward.

These three axes should be completed with following related activities which are an integral part of the role of the clinical pharmacist:

- Contribution in continuing education of physicians, nurses and pharmacists;
- Research and development.