

From: Communication
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:17 AM
To: Communication
Subject: Message for all staff: March 5 - 9 is Pharmacy Awareness Week

The following message has been sent to all VIHA staff on behalf of Michele Babich, Alice Gelpke and Dr. Brian Weinerman. Please print and post for staff without email access:



Date: February 29, 2012

To: All VIHA staff

From: Michele Babich
Director of Pharmacy Services

Alice Gelpke
Executive Director
Pharmacy, Diagnostics
and Community Hospitals

Dr. Brian Weinerman
Executive Medical
Director
Pharmacy, Diagnostics
and Community Hospitals

Re: **March 5th to 9th is Pharmacy Awareness Week**

Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians and Assistants work in a variety of settings in VIHA. Pharmacists use their training and skills to improve patient outcomes. They are an important part of the health care provider team, and we know the team approach ensures better care for patients.

As part of the interdisciplinary health care team, pharmacists contribute to reducing adverse drug events, improving patient safety and reducing lengths of stay and readmission rates.

In VIHA, pharmacists are involved in the following:

- Anticoagulation clinic to optimize anticoagulation in patients going for surgery and with VTE
- Academic detailing to physicians to promote clinical evidence based drug prescribing.
- Medication Reconciliation.
- Monitoring, customizing and optimizing of drug therapy
- Home and Community Care Practice
- Seniors at Risk Integrated Network
- Clinical Pharmacy Informatics
- Drug Utilization and Management
- Home IV Therapy

Our pharmacy assistants and technicians support the drug distribution system ensuring that the right drug is dispensed to the right patient. They are also involved in supporting clinical pharmacy practice in research and medication reconciliation activities allowing the pharmacist to devote more time to their clinical role. With the regulation of Pharmacy Technicians, their role has expanded and they have become a separate health care profession under the College of Pharmacists of BC.

I encourage you to drop by the pharmacy booths during pharmacy week at VGH, RJH and NRGH to find out more about who the pharmacy staff are and what they do on a regular basis to support optimal patient care. More information is available on events during the week at <https://intranet.viha.ca/departments/pharmacy/Pages/default.aspx>.

Michele Babich
Director of Pharmacy Services

Alice Gelpke
Executive Director, Pharmacy, Diagnostics and Community Hospitals

Dr. Brian Weinerman
Executive Medical Director, Pharmacy, Diagnostics and Community Hospitals

Archived staff memos are available on our website at:
<https://intranet.viha.ca/Pages/news.aspx>