

CIRCULAR NO (DHP/2023/102)

From	Department of Healthcare Professions / Ministry of Public Health
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Pharmacists in the State of Qatar• All Healthcare Facilities/ focal points in the state of Qatar (Government Sector and Hospitals in the Private Sector)
Subject	Regulation of “Clinical Pharmacist” and Defining the Scope of Practice and Registration Requirements
Date	24 September 2023

“Greetings from the department of Healthcare Professions (DHP).”

In pursuit of our commitment to raise the quality of healthcare services offered in the State of Qatar, and to maximize the contribution of pharmacists' expertise within the healthcare sector, the Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) announces regulating Clinical Pharmacy including the delineation of its scope of practice and the associated licensing requirements. This pivotal decision based on the recommendation of the Permanent Licensing Committee during its meeting number (2) of the year 2023, convened on the date 28/8/2023.

- The following are required for obtaining licensure within this category:
 - Obtaining a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) degree, entailing no less than six years of study, or a bachelor's degree in pharmacy followed by a master's degree in clinical pharmacy or its equivalent.
 - Minimum of two years' experience in the domain of Clinical Pharmacy.
- Moreover, licensing for pharmacists within this category can be in healthcare facilities in the governmental and semi-governmental sectors and the private sector of the country.
- For all details related to the approved scope of practice and licensing requirements, please see the attachments accompanying this circular.

For further information, contact: DHPRegistration@MOPH.GOV.QA

Thank you for your cooperation, Department of Healthcare Professions



Clinical Pharmacist

National Registration Requirements & Scope of Practice

Criteria	Clinical Pharmacist
Definition	<p>Clinical pharmacist is a healthcare professional who performs functions beyond fundamental dispensing and order-processing activities. This typically involves optimization of medication selection, dosing, and monitoring. There are a wide variety of activities that can be considered clinical pharmacy activities.</p> <p>Clinical Pharmacists are part of a multidisciplinary team, in which they are responsible for medication therapy and patient outcomes, and they are held accountable. The goal for clinical pharmacists is a broader approach or comprehensive medication management (CMM).</p> <p>The definition of CMM is the standard of care that ensures an individualized plan for each patient in relation with his medications (prescription, non-prescription, supplements, or herbals). Where each patient must be assessed individually to determine if the medication is appropriate, effective for the condition, safe for use with concurrent comorbidities and therapies, and that the patient is able to take them. An individualized care plan defines the goals, monitoring, and intended outcome.</p>
Practice Settings	Clinical Pharmacists practice in both the Governmental and private sector
Education	Bachelor's degree in pharmacy/Pharmaceutical health related Sciences from accredited educational institutions + Pharm D degree (minimum 1 year program) or master's degree in Clinical Pharmacy or its equivalent
Scope of Practice	<p>The scope of practice of the clinical pharmacist may include but is not limited to the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinates with physicians and healthcare providers to ensure patients receive the proper medication ○ Resolve day-to-day medicines issues and consult with and treat patients directly ○ Providing pharmacotherapy support to diagnosticians during inpatient medical ward rounds so that drug selection and dosing can be optimized ○ Interviewing and counseling patients to ensure appropriate monitoring for safety and efficacy of the treatment ○ Developing institutional tools that help healthcare providers make smarter decisions related to medications ○ Participates in pharmacy operations and medication dispensing ○ Communicates effectively with healthcare providers and caregivers ○ Facilitates experiential learning and practice advancement
Licensure	Clinical Pharmacist must apply for Licensure through the Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP).
Experience	<p>For overseas candidates: Minimum 2-years' postgraduate experience in Clinical Pharmacy field. For Qatari nationals/ QU graduates/offspring of Qatari women's/ offspring of residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to circular no. 15/2022: https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/QCHPCirculars/Circular%20(15-2022)-Eng.pdf • Refer to circular no. 14/2023: https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/QCHPCirculars/Circular%20DHP%2014%20English.pdf

Competency validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicant shall pass the prometric exam (as per the qualifying examination policy)• Proposed competencies must meet entry to practice criteria according to the proposed scope of practice and competency requirement.
Other Requirement for Evaluation & Registration	(Refer to DHP requirements for license Registration/Evaluation) https://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Pharmacists.pdf
Requirements for License Renewal	(Refer to DHP requirements for license Renewal) https://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Pharmacists.pdf
Note: Applicants with break in practice please refer to DHP "Break in practice policy" at the following link: https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/QCHPCirculars/Circular%20(14-2021)%20-%20Eng.pdf	

Clinical Pharmacist Detailed Scope of Practice

INTRODUCTION

The Clinical Pharmacist Scope of Practice uses a competency framework built on six essential domains:

1. **Direct Patient Care**
2. **Pharmacotherapy Knowledge**
3. **Systems-based care and population health**
4. **Communication**
5. **Professionalism**
6. **Continuous professional development**

Each domain is described through competency standards that define the requirements for practice demanded of the Clinical Pharmacist.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Clinical Pharmacy is a health science discipline where pharmacists provide patient care that optimizes medication therapy and promotes health, wellness, and disease prevention.

The practice of clinical pharmacy embraces the philosophy of pharmaceutical care; it blends a caring orientation with specialized therapeutic knowledge, experience, and judgment for the purpose of ensuring optimal patient outcomes. As a discipline, clinical pharmacy also has an obligation to contribute to the generation of new knowledge that advances health and quality of life.

Clinical Pharmacy is emerging in different countries around the world (such as USA, Australia)

DEFINITION OF CLINICAL PHARMACIST

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Clinical Pharmacists are part of a multidisciplinary team, in which they are responsible for medication therapy and patient outcomes, and they are held accountable.

The goal for clinical pharmacists is a broader approach or comprehensive medication management (CMM).

The definition of CMM is the standard of care that ensures an individualized plan for each patient in relation with his medications (prescription, non-prescription,
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supplements, or herbals). Where each patient must be assessed individually to determine if the medication is appropriate, effective for the condition, safe for use with concurrent comorbidities and therapies, and that the patient is able to take them. An individualized care plan defines the goals, monitoring, and intended outcome.

CLINICAL PHARMACIST JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Evaluate and implement safe and cost-effective use of drugs.
- Provides clinical pharmacy services to selected patient care unit (inpatient and/or outpatient) that requires specialized pharmaco-therapeutic care and practice expertise.
- Coordinate with physicians and healthcare providers to ensure patients receive the proper medication (including screening for duplicate prescribing, drug-drug and drug-food interaction, drug-disease contraindications, patient compliance), adverse drug reaction (ADR) detection and reporting, pharmacokinetic evaluation of serum drug levels (i.e., therapeutic drug monitoring or TDM).
- Participate in ward rounds with medical staff to recommend drug therapy modifications and to provide pharmacotherapy support to diagnosticians, so that drug selection and dosing can be optimized. (i.e., changes in drug, dose, route or timing of administration and duration of treatment).
- Collaborate with the medical team to facilitate prescription writing, ensuring transfer / discharge prescription orders are accurate and complete by reviewing them against initial / inpatient orders, provide individualized patient and staff education to enhance compliance and to help patients make the best use of their medications.
- Identify educational needs in the area of pharmaceutical care for health care providers and patients with providing them the needed educational services about drug therapy and pharmacy services.
- Evaluate clinical pharmacy needs in assigned working era, detects problems, and implements solutions with participation in the clinical oriented research projects.
- Developing institutional tools that help healthcare providers make smarter decisions related to medications.
- Participates in pharmacy operations and medication dispensing.
- Facilitates experiential learning and practice advancement.

COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

1. DOMAIN 1: DIRECT PATIENT CARE

The pharmacist patient care process (PPCP) is a systematic approach for pharmacist provision of care, regardless of the type of service or the pharmacy practice setting. It consists of five steps: **Collect, Assess, Plan, Implement, and Follow Up:** Monitor and Evaluate.

The PPCP is based on a patient-centered approach that involves collaboration, communication, and documentation with the patient, family, caregivers, and other health care providers.

2. DOMAIN 2: PHARMACOTHERAPY KNOWLEDGE

In this domain, the clinical pharmacist demonstrates and applies in depth-knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacotherapy, pathophysiology, and the clinical signs, symptoms and the history of diseases.

He will use his knowledge as a basis for therapeutic decision making.

The clinical pharmacist must maintain and enhance his knowledge with the recent scientific/clinical evidence including recertification and other methods for self-assessment and growth. and he must use his knowledge.

3. DOMAIN 3: Systems-based care and population health

Clinical pharmacists must know how to use the health care delivery systems and the health informatics to achieve the best health outcome for individuals and the population.

As well, they must participate in development of processes, and report any system errors to help improve the system in a way that best serves the population.

4. DOMAIN 4: COMMUNICATION

Communication is considered one the crucial competencies that a clinical pharmacist must acquire.

A clinical pharmacist must communicate effectively with different parties:

- Patients, caregivers, families taking into consideration the different backgrounds.
- Other healthcare professionals (physicians, nurses, other pharmacists...).

Through the appropriate communication that must be tailored to the recipient, he should provide clear and precise information, either verbally or written. And he should

make sure that the recipient has fully understood the instructions and information.

5. DOMAIN 5: PROFESSIONALISM

A clinical pharmacist must uphold the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and honesty,

Always working for the patient's best interest. And he must be committed to play a fundamental role in helping and training of future clinical pharmacists.

6. DOMAIN 6: Continuous professional development

A clinical pharmacist must show a high commitment in lifelong learning, and interpersonal. growth. He must have ethical standards, and commit to help and train other clinical pharmacists.



A clinical pharmacist has an obligation to serve and provide the best health care to the public, this will be achieved by continuous learning and updated therapeutic knowledge.

References:

<https://www.accp.com/about/clinicalpharmacists.aspx>

https://www.accp.com/docs/positions/guidelines/Saseen_et_al-2017-Pharmacotherapy_FINAL.pdf#:~:text=This%20paper%20is%20an%20update%20to%20a%20previous,population%20health%2C%20communication%2C%20professionalism%2C%20and%20continuing%20professional%20development