



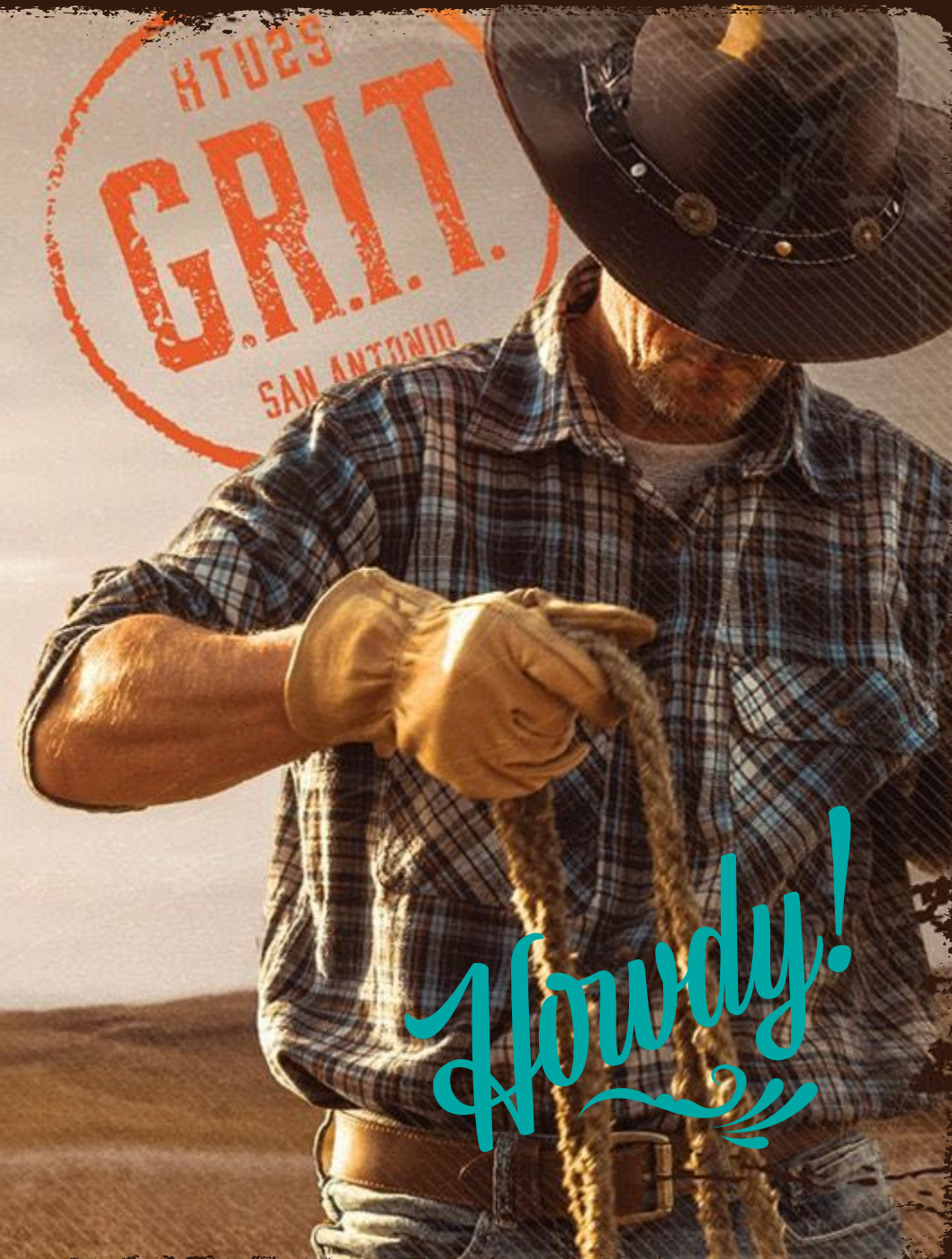
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There's a New Sheriff in Town – Guiding New Hospital Pharmacy Leaders to Achieve Excellence

THIS SESSION IS NOT OPEN TO SUPPLIERS

Applying for CE credit or need a Certificate of Participation? Be sure to snap a pic of the code shown at the end of this session.

CE Deadline: 09/30/25



Presenters



**Leigh Anders,
PharmD**

Regional Director of
Pharmacy Operations

Ardent Health



**Kerry Bowlin,
CPhT**

Pharmacy Operations
Specialist

Ardent Health



**Jennifer Gass, PharmD,
MS, MHA, BCPS, BCCCP**

Clinical Director of
Pharmacy Services

Ardent Health

Howdy!

Disclosures



The presenters have no real or perceived conflicts of interest related to this presentation

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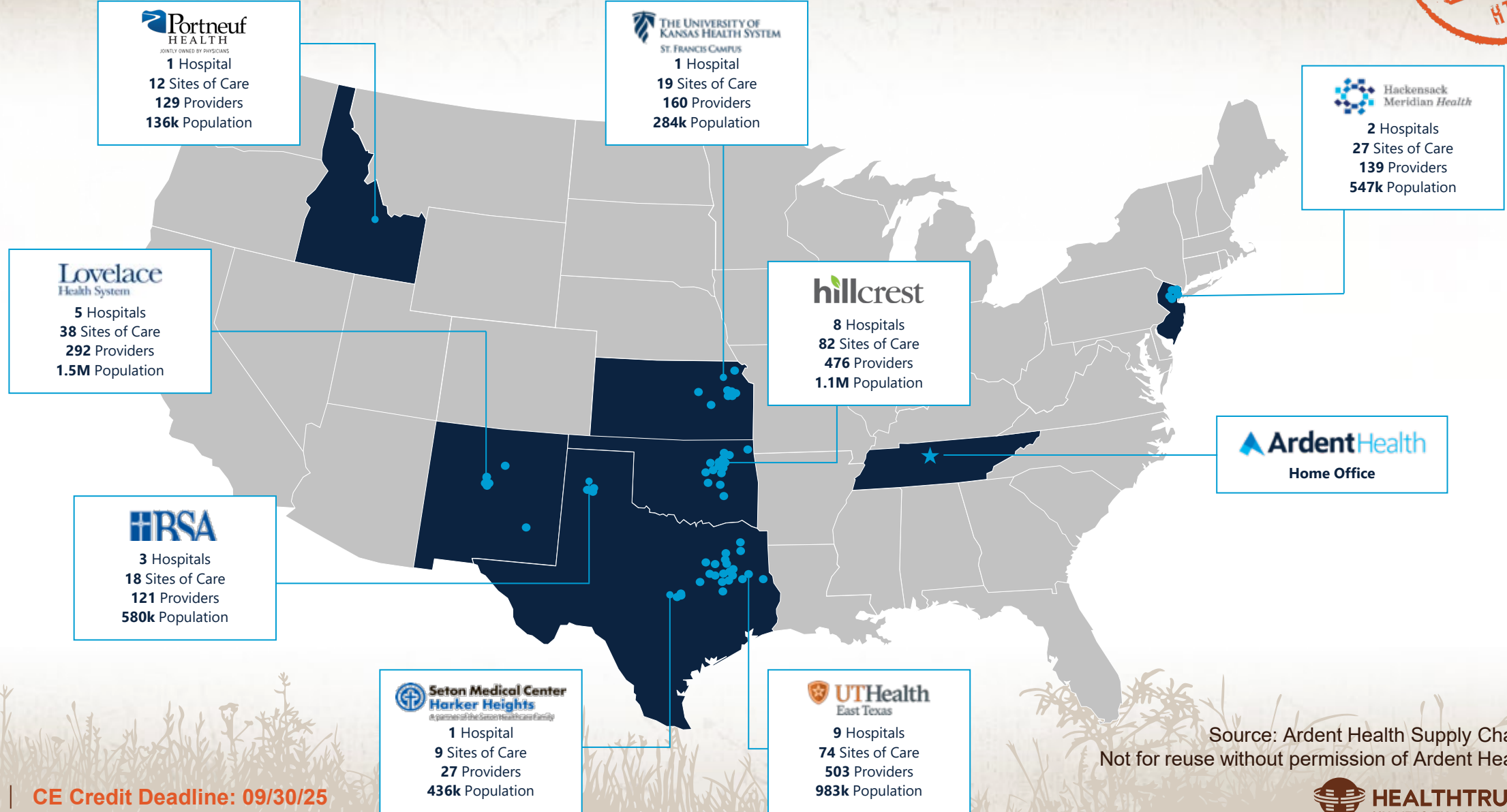
Learning Objectives



At the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Recall workflow adaptations to improve staff engagement and retention
- Recognize strategies to improve pharmaceutical cost and inventory containment.
- Identify the current state of pharmaceutical care and new opportunities for expansion

Ardent Health



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How did I get here?

- I completed a business degree or other training to prepare for a leadership role
- The previous leader left & I had the most knowledge of the facility or experience
- The position seemed like the next reasonable career move
- I moved & a leadership position was what was open at the time
- I don't really know how I landed here

How did
you become
a leader
in your
pharmacy
group?

I'm a leader, now what?



General Challenges

- Processes
- Clinical considerations
- Human resources
- Workplace politics
- Health information technology adoption

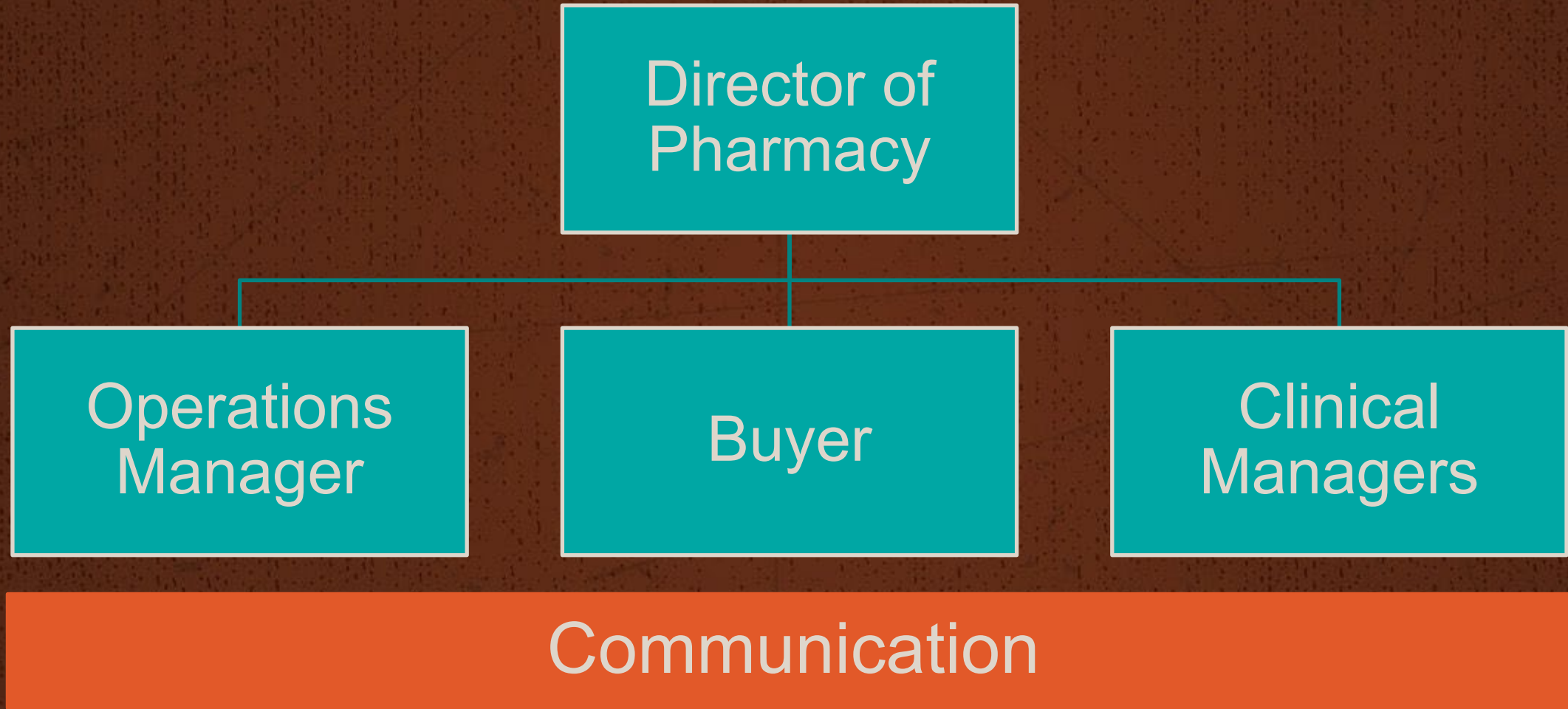
Internal Conflict

- New team
- Different is better
- How to get things done
- Your team includes “up”
- How to make the goal
- Avenues of support

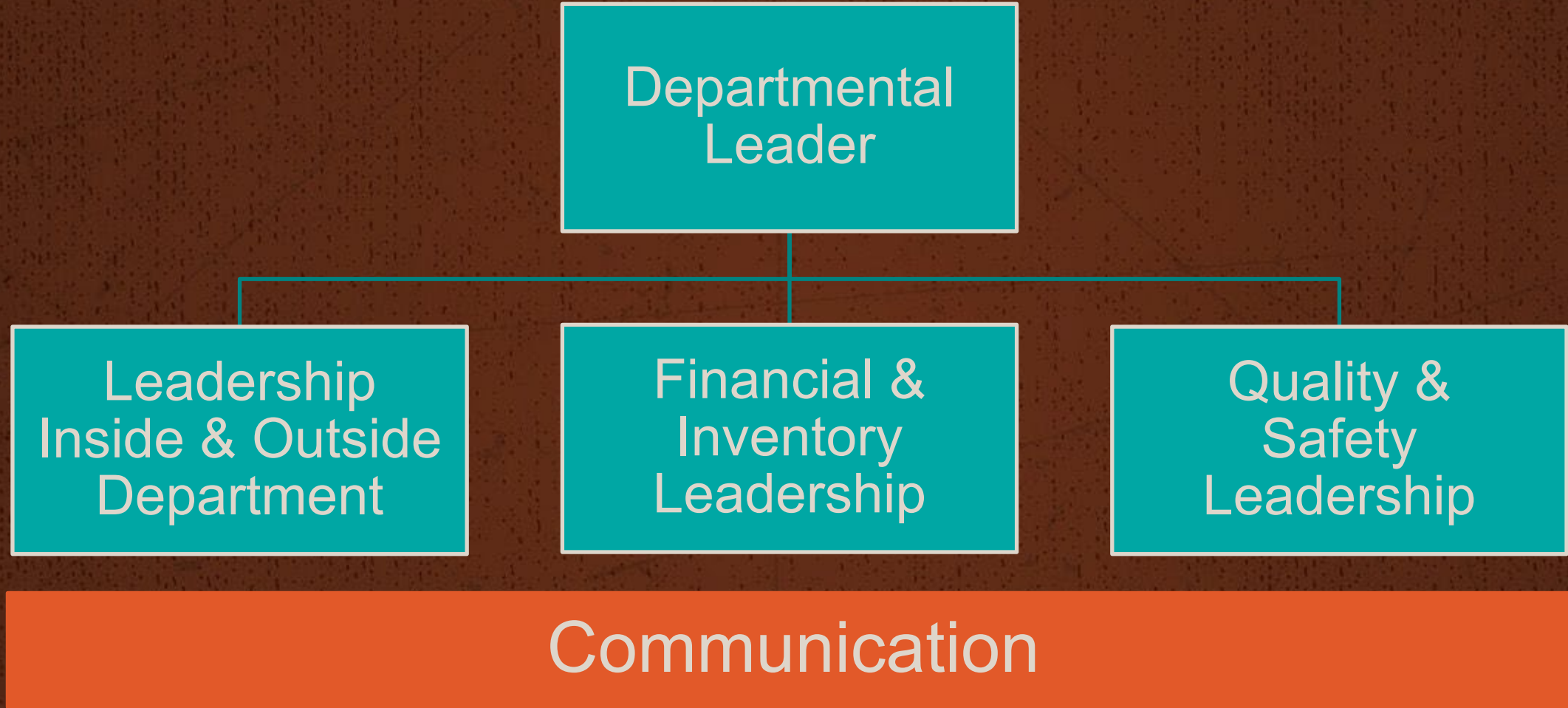
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1. Peters MJ, et al. Managing the unexpected: considerations for new pharmacy leaders. *Am J Health Sys Pharm.* 2024;81(12):483-7.
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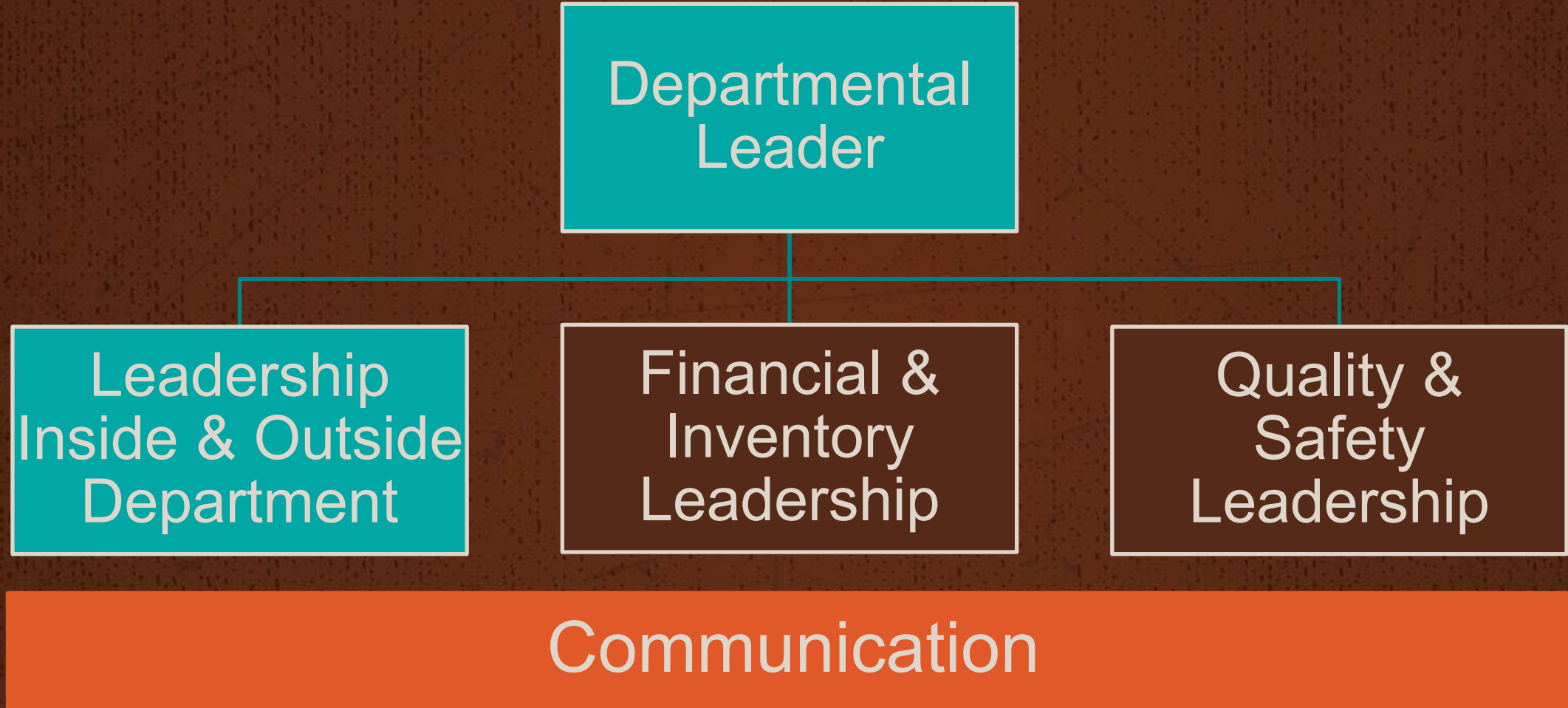
Leadership Hierarchy



Leadership Activities



Leadership Activities





Improving Staff Engagement & Retention

Workflow Adaptations

- Collaborative leadership style
- Positive energy
- Developing your vision & knowing your “why”
- Creating relationships
- Communicating up & down the hierarchy
- Daily huddles
- Leading by walking around
- Advocating for your team
- Understanding your business
- Developing new leaders

Leadership Styles



"Lean is about...

- *continuous improvement & respect for people."*
- *...giving everybody in the organization the opportunity to do their best every day & to feel completely engaged & fulfilled by the work that they do."*

- Philip Holt

White Coat Leadership

- All knowing
- "In charge"
- Autocratic
- "Buck stops here"
- Impatient
- Blaming
- Controlling

Lean Improvement Leadership

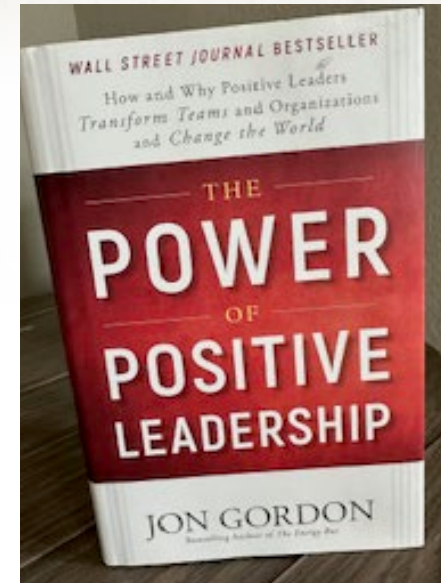
- Patient
- Knowledgeable
- Facilitator
- Teacher
- Student
- Helper
- Communicator
- Guide "coach"

Sources:

1. Holt P. *The Simplicity of Lean*. Royal Boom Publishers; 2019.
2. John Toussant, M.D. former CEO of ThedaCare.
3. Graban M. *Lean Hospitals*. 2nd ed. CRC Press; 2012.

Positive Leadership

- Build great relationships & teams
 - Be an encourager
 - Lead by walking around
- Your positive energy will energize your team
 - Higher work performance
 - More cohesive team
- Continue to learn & grow
 - Create a leadership library
 - Attend leadership development programs



**Easy to implement
strategies to help leaders
have resilience, positivity &
optimism to overcome
challenges**

Sources:

1. Gordon J. *The Power of Positive Leadership*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc; 2017.
2. Ardent Health Supply Chain. Not for reuse without permission of Ardent Health

Positive Leaders Drive Positive Cultures

Driving Culture



Vision statement:

- True North – guides your decision-making
- Does your team know where you are headed?
- Create a vision statement for your department
- Once you know what you stand for, it is easy to make decisions
- Ask each team member to create their own “why”
 - Example: “**To** mentor pharmacy leaders everywhere **so that** they can improve their culture, motivate their teams & elevate the pharmaceutical care in their organizations.”
 - Ask how **their** vision contributes to the **team** vision

Communication Builds Trust



Interactions with Your Leader

- Meeting preparation
 - Be prepared
 - Meet in your office
 - Align with mission & goals
 - Promote your pharmacy & staff
- Managing the business
 - Turnover
 - Supply costs
 - “Own the ground you stand on”



Interactions with Others

- Create relationships
 - Break down silos
 - Collaborate
 - Process improvement
 - “Fresh eyes”
- Meet with your CFO
 - Budget variances/financial performance
 - New positions
 - New equipment



Interactions with Your Team

- Daily huddle
 - Share news, get feedback
 - Include all staff – take notes
- Email
 - Concise – bullet points
 - Deadlines or attachments
- 1:1 Meetings – quarterly
 - Close your computer
 - Actively listen
 - Find out what motivates

Sources:

1. Studer Q. *Hardwiring Excellence*. Fire Starter Publishing;2003.
2. Ardent Health Supply Chain. Not for reuse without permission of Ardent Health.

Daily Huddle – “Stand Up” Meetings



- 5–15 minutes
- All facilities need to huddle daily
- Distribute huddle notes for those not in attendance
- Agenda
 - Connect to purpose
 - Safety – equipment, personnel
 - Issues to be aware of for the day
 - Metrics & trends
 - Opportunities for improvement (OFIs)
 - Positive feedback – end on a high note

SAFETY/OFI		MISCELLANEOUS	
IV room - temp - pressure - humidity off for weeks ↳ pressure fixed 5/26 @ 1600 → 5-89 Room 2 pressure not working work of don 160536		Which anesthetic should we have? Med Surg Room Code 042020	
		Crash Carts: 3	
8-1-25 BUYER		UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS	
		Surgery 1) Q2 Heartbeat Surgery - June 3 - June 17	
NARC TECH		PHARMACIST 5/27	
Shortages: Hydromorphone D.Sing is w/ prescriptions are loaded in ZE		On Call: Dan Abx T/O: 3	
Other: Morphine D.Sing is has been withdrawn from practice. Pharmacy O. Hospital O. for practice. don't prescribe from ABC		Daily Monitoring: done IV to PO: 7/6	
TICKETS		Post PCI: 0 Vanc: 3	
		Warfarin: 0 PPN/TPN: 0	
		WINS & RECOGNITIONS	
		Maribel!	

Source: Ardent Health Supply Chain. Not for reuse without permission of Ardent Health.

Leading by Walking Around



- Gets you out of your office
- Gives an accurate picture of work being done
- Makes you visible & accessible to your team
- Observe to understand, not to coach or correct
- Ask questions
 - What are you working on?
 - Can you walk me through the steps of this process?
 - How long does it take to complete?
 - Is there anything that impedes your work?
 - What do you think is the cause of the problem?
 - How can we solve the problem?

“Go to the *Gemba*”

*...a Japanese term meaning,
“the actual place.”*

This Lean principle encourages leaders to observe processes & interact with staff in an effort to address issues & spot potential opportunities for improvement.

Final Thoughts

- Leadership is a journey of continuous learning & growth
- Engage, communicate with & lead your team with purpose
- Your influence creates a strong, positive culture

It is amazing what your team will accomplish!



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Assessment Question #1



Which of the following workflow adaptations is most effective for improving staff engagement & retention?

- A. Decreasing the frequency of 1:1 meetings to annually
- B. Relying solely on email communication for staff updates
- C. Implementing daily huddles & leading by walking around
- D. Mandating staff complete all tasks without team input

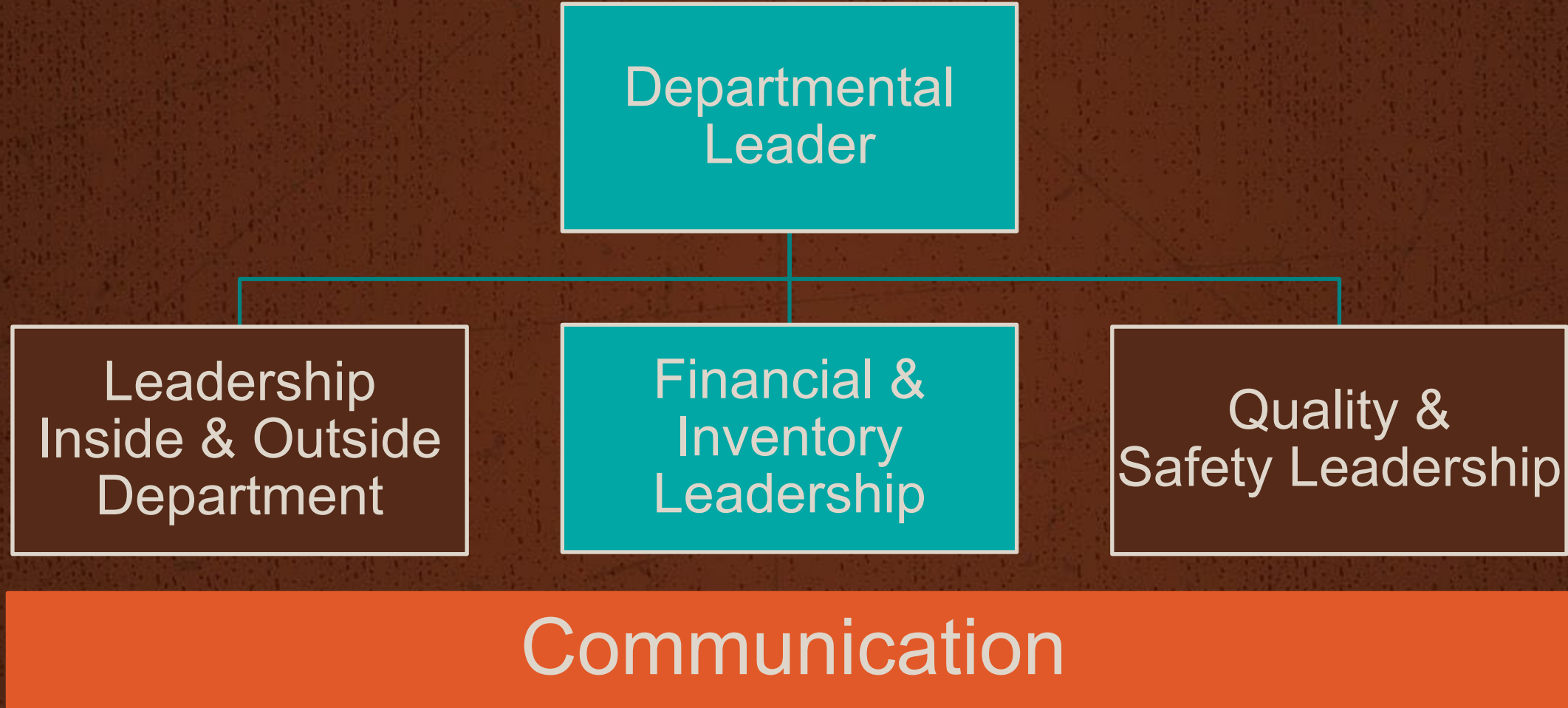
Assessment Question #1: Correct Response



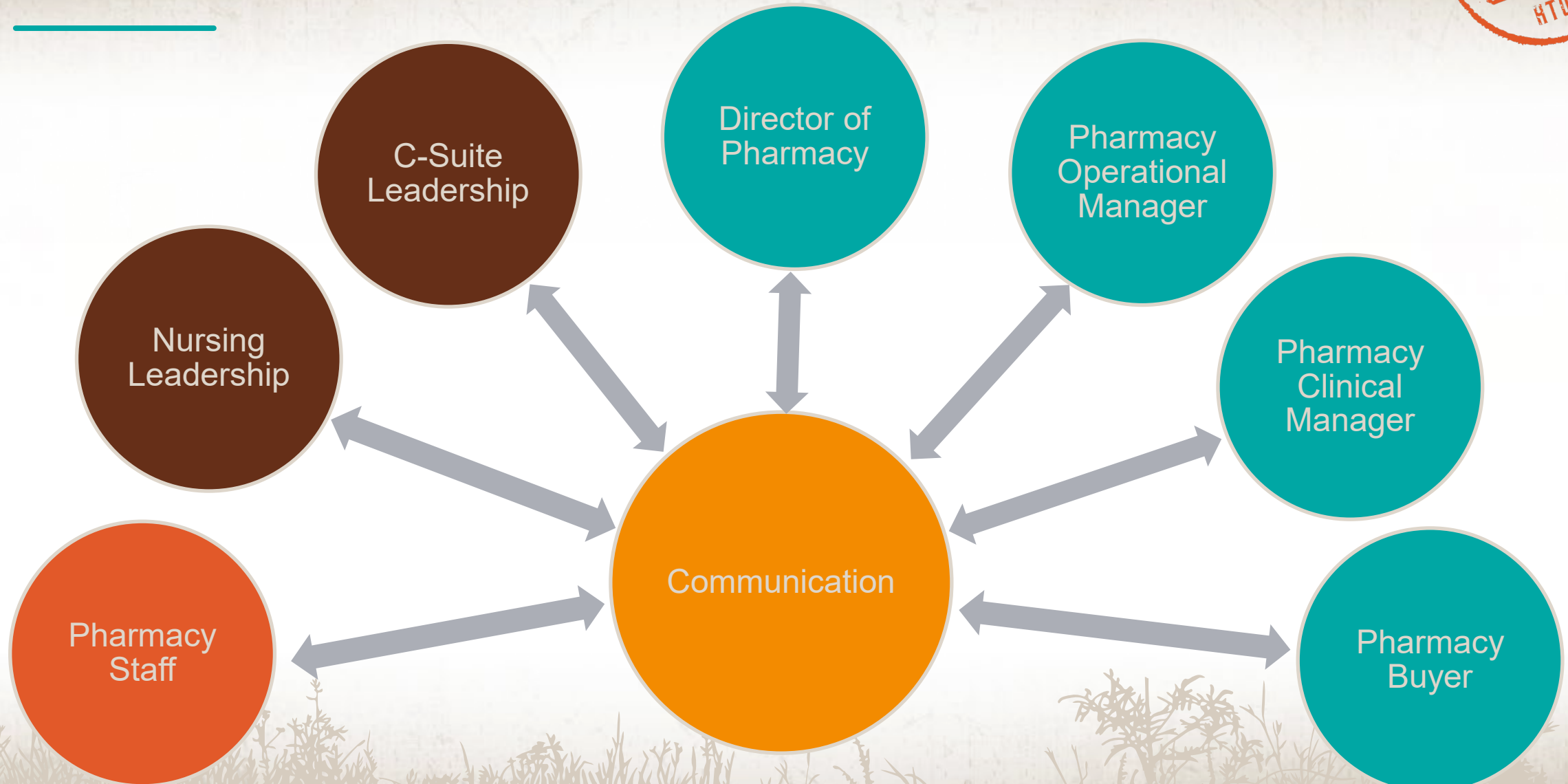
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Leadership Activities



Communication in Leadership





Who is a Pharmacy Buyer?

Key Principles:

- Reliable
- Agile
- Communicator

- Wide range of impact in the pharmacy
 - Financial impact
 - Operational impact
 - Clinical impact
- Commonly a senior pharmacy tech
- Training is all done on the job
- Needs strong communication skills
- Quick to pivot

Roadblocks for Buying



Shortages

- Pharmaceutical company can be responsible or the drug warehouse
- Roadblocks
 - Raw material
 - Production delays
 - Shipping delays
 - Increase demand
 - Product leaving the market

Recalls

- Pharmaceutical company responsible
- Raw material not an issue but the facility conditions or compounding was
- Production cannot start up until FDA gives approval



Cost Containment – Expired Meds

Key Principles:

- Regular review
- Formulary
- Move inventory

- Review automated dispensing cabinets for any medications that have not been used over 90 days
- Monitor current min & max in stations & any overfilling that may be happening
- Create a plan to communicate items that are going to expire to neighboring hospitals in your system
- Review how much is going to your reverse distributor & what is getting a credit
- Review formulary items



Cost Containment – Shortages

Key Principles:

- Work quickly
- Teamwork
- Communicate

- Get with Clinical Manager or staff on what is the next alternative to the item on shortage
- Work with the Operations Manager to formulate a conversation plan to “ride the wave” of the shortage
- Communicate with pharmacy staff on any changes of the item
- Buyers should go out hunting to find any opportunities to get the needed drug to keep them afloat
- DOPs should be communicating to leaders outside the pharmacy



Cost Containment – General

Key Principles:

- Save money
- Workflow
- Compliance
- Waste management

- Contract compliance – driving rebates & pricing
- Buy unit dose or repackaging in-house
- Buy 503B product or compound in-house
- Regular review of what is being ordered
- Regular review of min & max in central pharmacy
- Regular review of unused & expired medications in central pharmacy
 - Involve Clinical & Operations Managers if these can be removed

Inventory Control



- Data analytics
 - Automated dispensing cabinet reports on min, max & usage
 - Perpetual inventory system on movement of medications
 - Electronic medical administration record reports to show usage by administrations
 - Electronic medical administration record reports for compounding
 - Unit dose packaging software

A combination of the above items can give you different angles on drug usage in your facility & where things are being left to expire

Inventory Control, *continued*



- Operations Manager
 - Regular review of any drugs that are unused or expired that can be removed
 - Regular review of min & max at ADC stations
 - What is being UD & compounded in-house
- Clinical Manager
 - Regular review of ADC stations on what can be removed
 - Regular review of items in central pharmacy that could be removed or strengths condensed
 - Regular review of formulary items on the shelf

Summary



- Directors of Pharmacy (DOPs) are the individuals who are responsible for all of decisions made regarding inventory even if they don't purchase medications
- There is no "Goldilocks spot" for inventory management or cost containment but more of a "Goldilocks bubble"
- Cost containment is something pharmacy is asked to improve every year & if you work as a team you can hit your goals
- **Communication is the key to your success**
- Proactive is always better than reactive

Assessment Question #2



Which of the following is a strategy to address cost containment in the pharmacy?

- A. Buying off-contract products
- B. Oversee the medication min & max in the automated dispensing cabinets
- C. Every 2 years review the medications on the pharmacy formulary
- D. Letting everyone in the pharmacy order medications that are needed

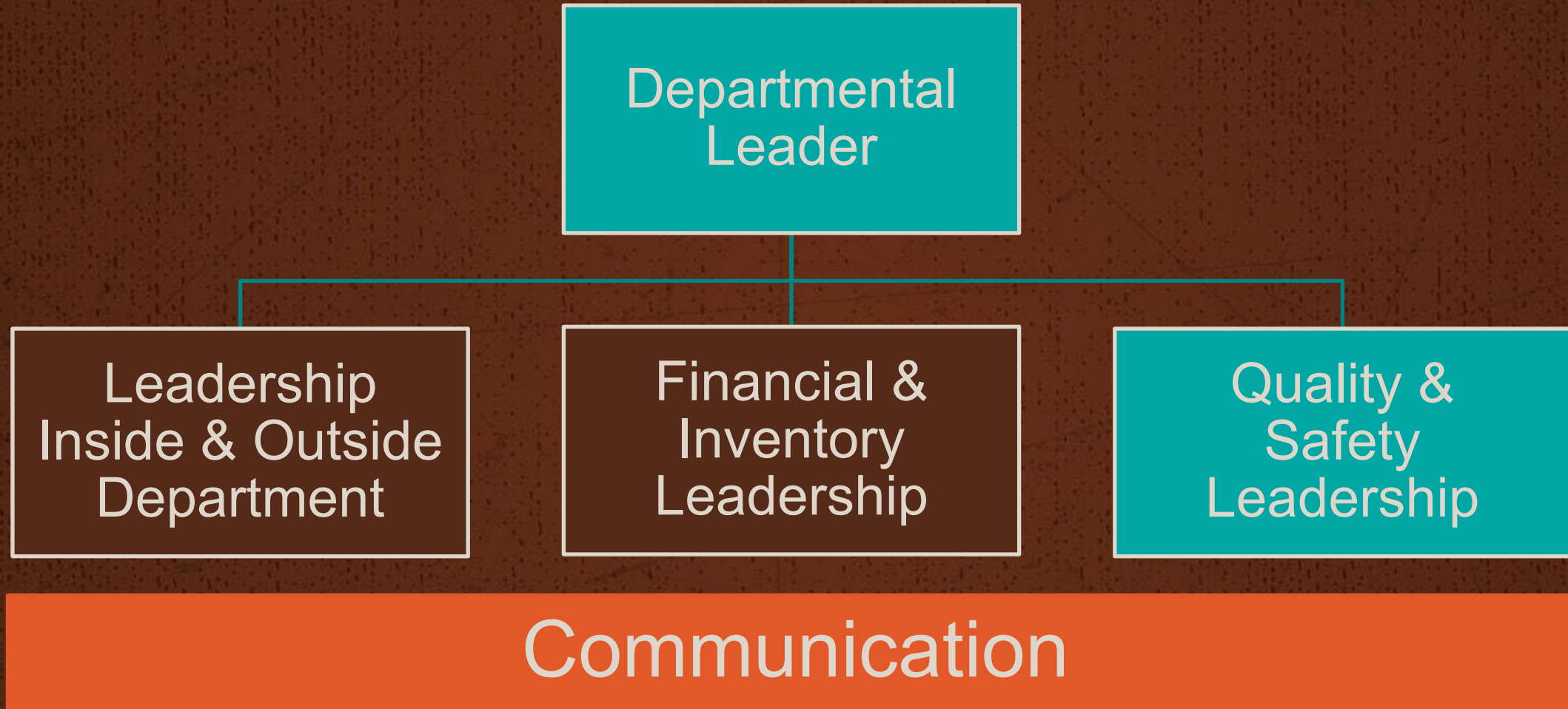
Assessment Question #2



Which of the following is a strategy to address cost containment in the pharmacy?

- A. Buying off-contract products
- B. **Oversee the medication min & max in the automated dispensing cabinets**
- C. Every 2 years review the medications on the pharmacy formulary
- D. Letting everyone in the pharmacy order medications that are needed

Leadership Activities



Financial Impact of Pharmaceutical Care



**Good pharmaceutical care
creates financial savings**

- Cost versus value of therapies
- Preventing adverse events
- Preventing medication errors
- Reduced readmission / value-based purchasing
- Billing for services
- Regulatory
- Public Reporting / HCAHPS

Source: Ardent Health Supply Chain. Not for reuse without permission of Ardent Health.

History & Current State of “Pharmaceutical Care”



Pharmaceutical Care

- 1990, Hepler & Strand
- “The responsible provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve a patient’s quality of life.”

Medication Therapy Management

- 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, & Modernization Act
- Supported pharmacy billable services
 - Optimize therapeutic outcomes
 - Detect & prevent medication problems

Comprehensive Medication Management

- 2010 Patient-centered Primary Care Collaborative
- Modern standard of care
 - Patient-centric care
 - All medication therapy
 - Multi-disciplinary team

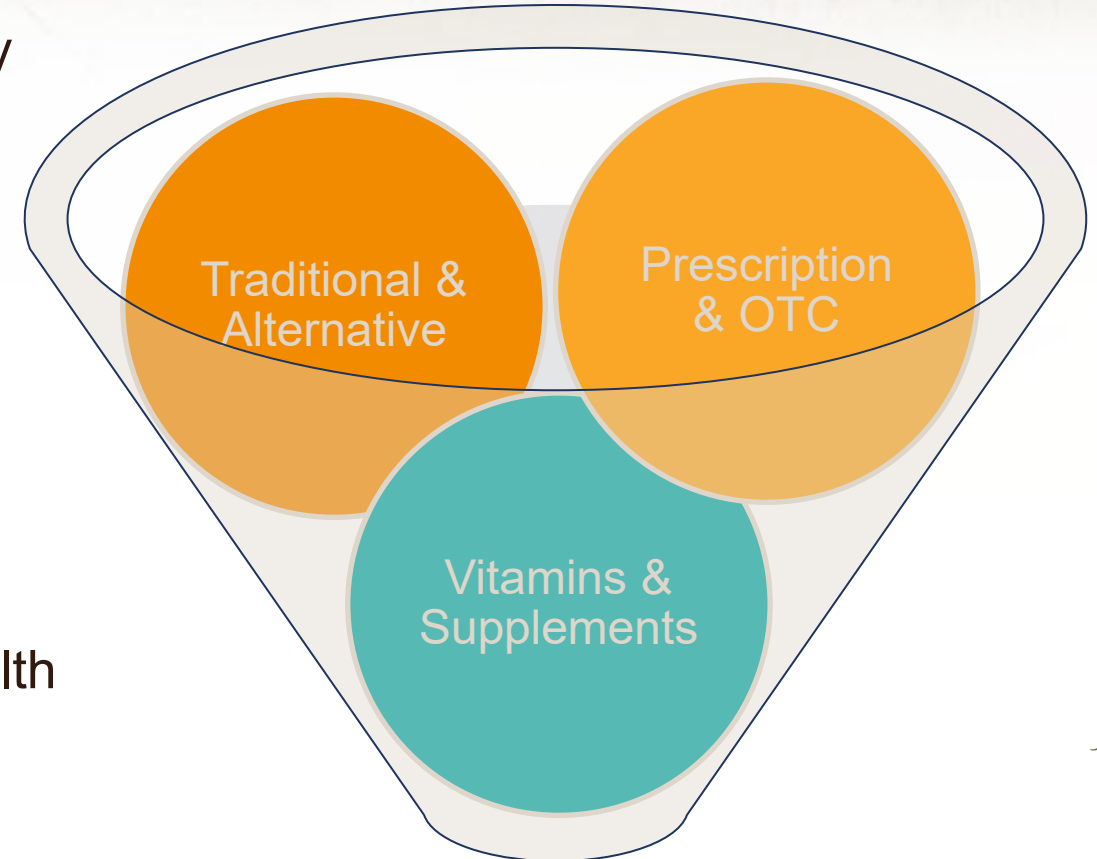
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Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM)



- Ensures each patient's medications are individually assessed:
 - Appropriate for the patient
 - Effective for the medical condition
 - Safe given the comorbidities
 - Safe with concomitant medications
 - Able to be taken by the patient as intended
- Focus on **all medications** & impact on patient health
- Multi-disciplinary team input & decision-making



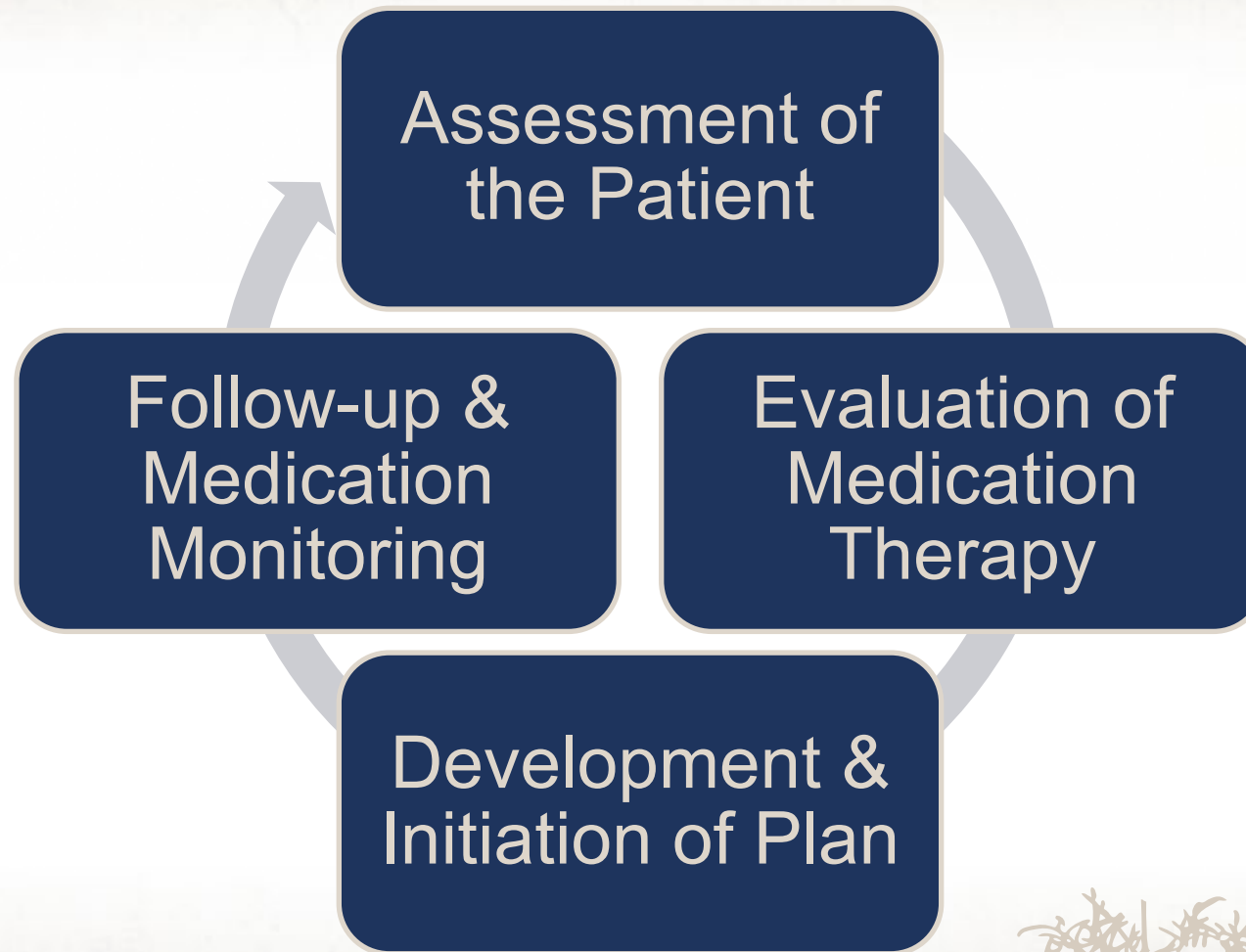
Source: "What is the Comprehensive Medication Management Process?"

Get the Medications Right: <https://gtmr.org/what-is-the-comprehensive-medication-management-process/>.

Accessed 6/1/2025.

Medications

Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM)



Source: "Comprehensive Medication Management in Team-Based Care," *American College of Clinical Pharmacy*: <https://www.accp.com/docs/positions/misc/cmm%20brief.pdf>. Accessed 5/28/2025.



Identifying Target Patients

Key Principles:

- Targeting patients
- Being efficient
- Team-centric

	Pros	Cons
Rounds	Multi-disciplinary, comprehensive	Time consuming; potentially inefficient
Unit Based	Comprehensive	Time consuming; potentially inefficient; may not be multi-disciplinary
Consults	Collaborative; focused on patients most in need & unique situations	Patients may be missed
List	Focused on target patients	List must be maintained; may not take into account changes in patient population
Surveillance Software	Focused on target patients	Limited to technology & maintenance of rules; costly



Right Pharmacist for the Job

Key Principles:

- Team-focused
- Staff growth
- Innovation

- All pharmacists are “clinical”
 - Clinical services range
 - Drug information
 - Medication centric care
 - Pharmacokinetic dosing & monitoring
 - Direct team & patient interactions
- Training & team development
 - Cross training
 - Leadership opportunities
 - Operate at top of individual licenses

Source: Wan C, et al. The influence of non-clinical pharmacists' understanding of and attitudes towards pharmaceutical care on their willingness to serve as clinical pharmacists in China. *BMC Health Services Research* 2022;22(1).

Key Principles:

- Building rapport
- Being present
- Identifying opportunity

Being Part of “Multi-disciplinary”



- Multi-disciplinary care
 - Patient centric
 - Scope of disciplines involved varies
 - Improved patient outcomes
 - Teams are self-reinforcing
- Pharmacists' role
 - Team member education
 - Comprehensive medication therapy management
 - Patient education
 - Active engagement & presence



Critical Timing & Transitions

Key Principles:

- Improving visibility
- Targeting safety
- Poly-pharmacy prevention

- Patient medication error risk elevated around transitions
 - Initial presentation to the acute care facility
 - Transitions between levels of care
 - Procedures
 - Discharge
- Opportunities for working with team members not typically a part of the multi-disciplinary team
 - Improve facility focus on patient safety
 - Increase awareness pharmacy's role
 - Look here for initiative opportunities



Stepping Outside of the Hospital

Key Principles:

- Patient Support
- Continuity of Care
- Admission avoidance

- Medication use doesn't stop at discharge
 - Discharge medication reconciliation
 - Discharge patient education
 - Financial planning & support
 - Meds-to-beds programs
 - Engagement with outside pharmacies
 - Engagement with clinics
- Ambulatory care engagement
 - New physicians expect pharmaceutical support
 - Key in specialty practice areas & high chronic disease & medication burden



Overcoming Barriers



Resources: Pharmacy Team Membership

- Training
- Mentoring
- Hiring
- Adjust schedules/shifts
- Clearly define expectations
- Team members' ideas

Resources: Technology

- Identify gaps
- Make the most of what you have
 - Work with your IT team
 - Connect with other facilities
- Source new resources
- “Old-fashioned”

Workflow

- Develop standard work
- Physical space optimization
- Practice at top of license
- Centralized tasks in decentralized spaces
- Team members' ideas

Overcoming Barriers, *continued*



Legal Limitations

- Carefully review laws
- Seek clarification
- Reach out to board
- Do not get discouraged
- Engage with other facilities

Multi-disciplinary Team

- Know the people
- Small steps
- High value tasks
- Demonstrate patient impact
- Build support
- Communication

Organizational Leadership

- Sell your team
- Bring data to the table
- Advocate for abilities & opportunities
- Do NOT overcommit
- Provide ongoing evidence of impact

Summary



- Countless opportunities exist
- Multi-disciplinary team providing patient-centric care
 - Communication & relationship building are required
 - Be present & engage
- Cost containment & savings follow good clinical practice
- Never forget the fundamentals
 - Patient compliance & understanding are required
 - Pharmacokinetic/dynamic monitoring
 - Adverse effect monitoring & prevention

- **Change can be incremental**
- **Protect your team!**
 - **Resources**
 - **Time**

Comprehensive Medication Management is an opportunity to grow & uplift your team

Assessment Question #3



Which of the following represents a significant improvement of pharmacy services associated with the modern concept of Comprehensive Medication Management?

- A. Consideration for drug-drug interactions
- B. Detecting & preventing medication problems
- C. Optimizing therapeutic outcomes
- D. Providing multi-disciplinary patient-centric care

Assessment Question #3: Correct Response



Which of the following represents a significant improvement of pharmacy services associated with the modern concept of Comprehensive Medication Management?

- A. Consideration for drug-drug interactions
- B. Detecting & preventing medication problems
- C. Optimizing therapeutic outcomes
- D. Providing multi-disciplinary patient-centric care

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Thanks y'all!



- Jennifer Gass – Jennifer.Gass@ArdentHealth.com
- Leigh Anders – Leigh.Anders@ArdentHealth.com
- Kerry Bowlin – Kerry.Bowlin@ArdentHealth.com