

What is a PCN Clinical Pharmacist?

Primary Care Network (PCN) Clinical Pharmacists are part of the Interprofessional Teams that provide **Comprehensive Medication Management** services to patients.

PCN Clinical Pharmacists work collaboratively with family physicians, nurse practitioners, and patients through shared decision-making to assess whether **medications** (prescription, non-prescription, and supplements) are **necessary, effective, safe, and feasible**. They also evaluate the combined safety of all drugs to **manage interactions, minimize adverse effects, and support adherence**. Recommendations are incorporated into the patient's care plan developed by the primary care provider, with follow-up provided as needed.

How does the PCN Clinical Pharmacist support within the Primary Care setting?

They support the healthcare team through:

- Recommending evidence-based treatments & collaborating with the care team on medication planning & monitoring
- Care Conferencing via the IPT referral form or directly through clinic co-location
- Summarizing patient histories and prior medication use to support shared decision-making
- Leading quality improvement initiatives to support chronic disease management, optimizing prescribing patterns, or conducting preventative health care

They support patients through:

- Dedicating time to provide patient education and address their needs/goals relating to medications
- Support medication changes, including deprescribing as appropriate

Patients can be referred for:

- Comprehensive medication review that will incorporate patient-centered goals
- Polypharmacy and deprescribing
- Assessment of drug-related causes of adverse effects or reactions
- Chronic diseases management; sub-optimal drug therapy outcomes
- Starting or stopping medications; switching or cross-tapering between medications
- Medication reconciliation after a recent hospital discharge

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If you have questions or want to find out more about the PCN Pharmacy program, please connect with your Community Network Manager or email pcn@vancouverdivision.com.