Improving Collaboration between Pharmacists and Physicians

The Pharmacist
- Dispenses medication
- Medication reconciliation
- Offers medication counseling and education

The Physician
- Diagnoses and assesses illness
- Creates treatment plans
- Educates patients on their illness and respective treatment

Pharmacist’s role in improving collaboration
- Sharing own clinical abilities with physician
- Being concise and respecting limited time
- Providing strong recommendations to improve patient outcomes

Physician’s role in improving collaboration
- Thorough explanation of expected services desired from pharmacist
- Improving communication, especially sharing necessary patient information

Together, pharmacists and physicians hold the power to improve patient outcomes across the board. The importance of this codependence should not be overlooked but rather valued and better understood.

Interprofessional education and training in pharmacology and clinical experience
- Many higher education institutions are beginning to offer curriculum that focuses on collaboration between health professionals.
- Rutgers University is the first institution to offer a dual pharmacy and medicine degree, in which students earn their PharmD and MD.

Respecting and understanding the other profession’s role in patient care
- Pharmacists and physicians place the patient first by respecting and understanding the other’s role in healthcare.

Based on an original article by Paras Patel in BU Well Volume 1

http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/buwell/