



Pathways to Informatics

Joshua Hartman, PharmD, MS
 Sinai Health System
 Clinical Informatics Specialist
 No actual or potential conflicts of interest

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Goals and Objectives

- Compare and contrast formal education options available to pharmacists and technicians wishing to pursue a career in pharmacy informatics.
- Describe career path options available for pharmacists and technicians interested in specializing in pharmacy informatics.

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Health Informatics vs. Health Information Management (HIM)

- Health Informatics – “An evolving specialization that links information technology, communications, and healthcare to improve the quality and safety of patient care. Though the concept of health IT includes the use of technology in the healthcare field, health informatics is not synonymous with health IT...”
- HIM – “The practice of acquiring, analyzing, and protecting digital and traditional medical information...”

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Polling Question

How much do you agree with the following statement, “I utilize informatics in every aspect of my current position.”

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Somewhat Agree
- C. Somewhat Disagree
- D. Strongly Disagree

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So what would you say you do here, really?

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Job Responsibilities

- Manage drug dictionary
- Build order sets
- Manage and support automated dispensing cabinets
- Support ancillary systems
- Triage Help Desk problems
- Formulary Service Vendor
- Attend departmental meetings
- Act as liaison between Pharmacy, IS, Network Operations, etc.

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First a PharmD, an Informaticist Second

- Patient care is the first priority
- Within that framework must determine how to reach institutional goals mandated by pharmacy and IS

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Pursuing a career in Pharmacy Informatics

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Residency Programs

- Offer targeted learning experiences building upon established skills
- Accredited residency programs ensure common standards are met across programs
- ASHP accredited residencies (<http://www.ashp.org/doclibrary/membercenter/sopit/informaticsspecialtyprogrammatrix.aspx>)



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Post Graduate Education

- Masters in Health Informatics
- Health Informatics Certificate Program
- Accredited by the CAHIIM
- Directory of accredited programs can be found at <http://cahiim.org/>



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Professional Organizations



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Don't Wait, Get Involved NOW

- Opportunities are everywhere
- Operational improvement relies heavily on innovation via informatics
- Reach out to coworkers in your own department as well as outside
- Be willing to go above and beyond



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Networking

- “Pharmacy is a small world”
- Seek out experts
- Reach out to others with similar interests
- Find a mentor (e.g. ASHP Mentor Exchange program)
- Reach out to classmates or instructors from technician certification programs
- Chat while you wait

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Many Paths to a Single Destination

- There is no right/wrong answer
- Have a plan, but be flexible
- Seize the opportunities presented to you, especially the ones that make you uncomfortable
- Don't be afraid to ask for help

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Self-Assessment Question

- Health informatics and Health Information Management are interchangeable terms?

A. True

B. False

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Self-Assessment Question

Which of the following organizations does NOT have resources for aspiring informaticists?

A. ASHP

B. ICHP

C. FDA

D. HIMSS

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Self-Assessment Question

Which of following can assist in the pursuit of a career in pharmacy informatics?

A. Residency

B. Bachelors/Post Graduate Education

C. Networking

D. All of the above

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References

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