Ambulatory Care Network
Help Us Help You (to Advance Pharmacy Practice)

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Maybe you are one of the many Illinois pharmacists who have heard of the Practice Advancement Initiative (PAI), but are still uncertain of how it advances pharmacy initiatives or impacts your day to day practice activities. If so, we would like to introduce you to some related resources provided by ASHP that can help you and Illinois pharmacists collectively.

It started in 2010, when the Hospital and Health-System Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI) consensus summit was organized by ASHP to build agreement on strategies to advance pharmacy practice. PPMI, along with the 2014 Ambulatory Care Summit recommendations, sought to advance the main roles of the health-system pharmacist in the changing health care environment stimulated by the Affordable Care Act. Although the initiative’s name has now changed to PAI, the goals of “developing and disseminating futuristic practice recommendations that support pharmacists’ roles as direct patient care providers” remains the ongoing focus.

PAI offers freely accessible online resources specific to your pharmacy role, specifically, there are resources for hospital practice, ambulatory care, health-system leadership, resident, student, new practitioner and technicians. Transcripts to summit proceedings, webinars, and pharmacist role case studies are a few of the helpful practice-specific resources you can access through the PAI website. Resource topics cover a broad range of themes including but not limited to: transitions of care, informatics, patient safety, quality improvement, credentialing, preceptor skills, REMS, and clinical guidelines.

So here is where you can help us. On the PAI website there is a link to the "AmCare Self-Assessment" or "Hospital Self-Assessment" that you can select to complete a questionnaire focused on your practice site and clinical activities. Once that is complete, you can review your list of priorities and action plan. The data collected allows you to compare how well your current practice aligns with the PAI goals and recommendations. A personalized action plan is provided at the questionnaire conclusion to provide guidance in practice improvement. State affiliates such as ICHP can use some of this information to see how well Illinois, as a state, is performing based on PAI measures and how Illinois compares to other states. So please visit the website http://www.ashpmedia.org/mai/ to find the assessment tools and other resources to help us and help you.