

Memo

To: VSHP Members
From: VSHP Board of Directors
Date: February 13, 2005
Re: Medication History Program Grants

VSHP Introduces First Medication Safety Grants

The Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (VSHP) asks that you and your staff consider applying for the first grants in VSHP history. Three grants in the amount of \$5,000 will be offered to help defray the costs of developing a pilot inpatient medication history program.

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists has established the "Health System 2015" initiative. This initiative includes some ambitious and measurable goals and objectives for pharmacy practice in health systems to be achieved by the year 2015 (<http://www.vshp.org/2015GO.pdf>). One of the objectives is as follows: "Pharmacists will be involved in managing the acquisition, upon admission, of medication histories for 75% of hospital inpatients with complex and high-risk medication regimens." Additionally, one of the JCAHO National Patient Safety Goals for 2005 is to "accurately and completely reconcile medications across the continuum of care." We hope you will agree that these grants offer an ideal opportunity to obtain assistance in establishing a program with which we all must comply in the near future.

Eligibility

Any VSHP member practicing in the health system setting is eligible for funding and may be awarded the grant.

Application

The following elements are required in the grant application:

1. Primary investigator name, credentials, and affiliation
2. Facility (at which pilot will take place) name and size (number of licensed beds)
3. Facility (at which pilot will take place) patient population (ie, pediatrics, critical care)
4. Description of the process. Pharmacists and/ or pharmacy technicians must have a specified role in the process for obtaining/ validating an accurate medication history. Proposal should not exceed 4 pages, double-spaced.

5. Timeline for the pilot program (Pilots must be completed by December 31, 2005)
6. Metrics to determine pilot program success

Grant applications should be **received by** VSHP no later than May 1, 2005.

Selection

A panel of the VSHP Board of Directors will evaluate applications based upon those that meet the application criteria and have the most merit. The winners of the grants will be announced on June 30, 2005.

Future Plans

Following successful implementation of the pilot programs, VSHP has the following expectations:

1. A report on the completed program must be submitted to the VSHP Board no later than February 28, 2006.
2. The project shall be submitted in manuscript form for publication in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy.
3. The project results will be shared with the VSHP membership in an effort to enhance patient safety and promote collaboration among Virginia pharmacists.