

HOW HOSPITAL AND HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS MANAGE DRUG SHORTAGES

In addition to their regular patient care duties, like working with the healthcare team to help manage and educate patients about their medication therapy in clinics and hospitals, pharmacists work every day to address the constant flow of new and ongoing drug shortages.



HOW DO HOSPITAL AND HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS LEARN ABOUT A SHORTAGE?



When a medication is in short supply, it can:



CHANGE OR DELAY
MEDICAL PROCEDURES



LIMIT TREATMENT
OPTIONS



INCREASE
COST

If pharmacists find an alternative source of a medication, then there is no impact on patient care.

HOW DOES THE TEAM RESPOND TO A SHORTAGE?

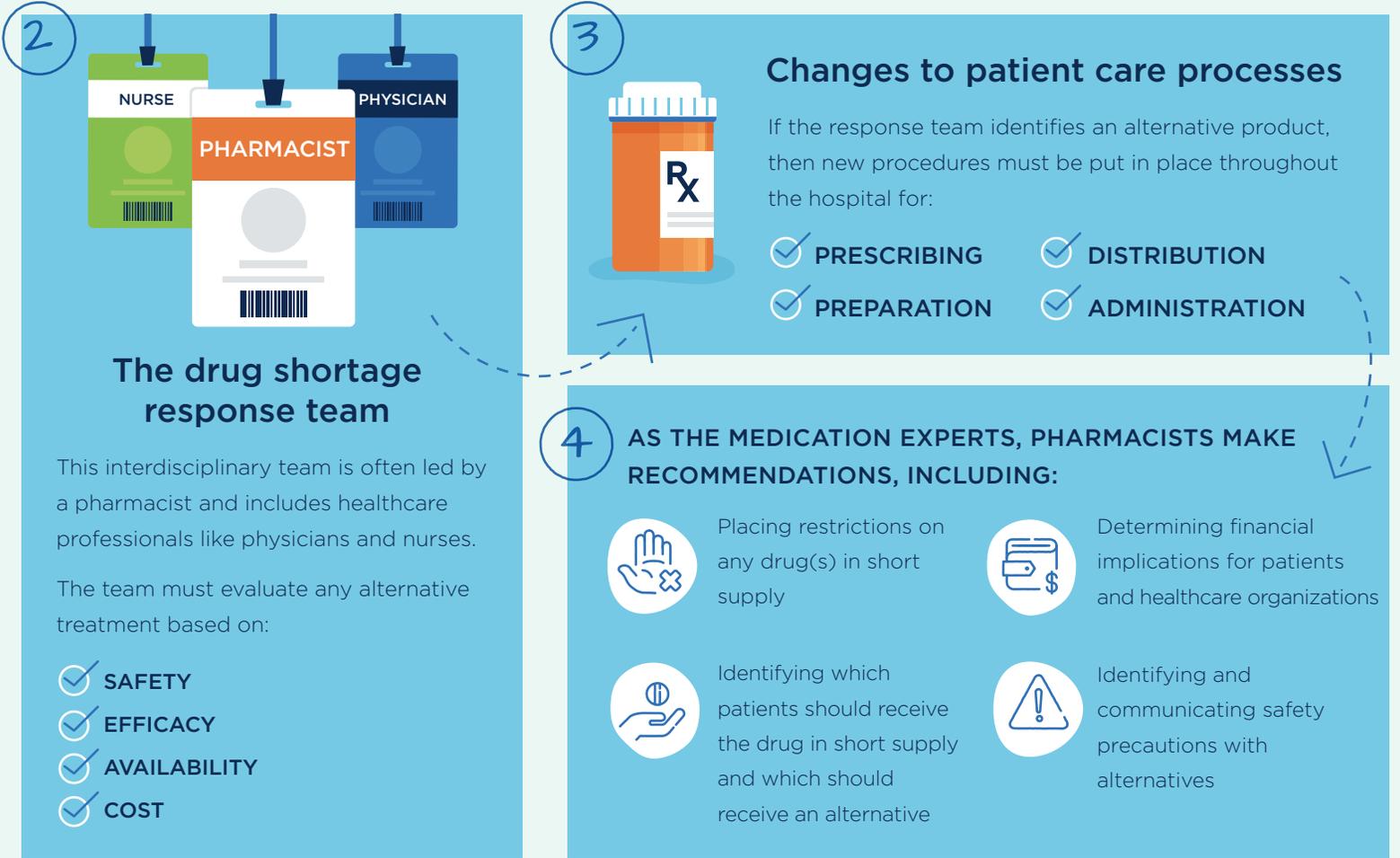


Pharmacy technicians and pharmacy buyers must determine:

- ✓ How much medication is on hand
- ✓ How long it will last
- ✓ Where it is located in the hospital
- ✓ Possible sources of alternative medications



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WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ISN'T A SUBSTITUTE MEDICATION?



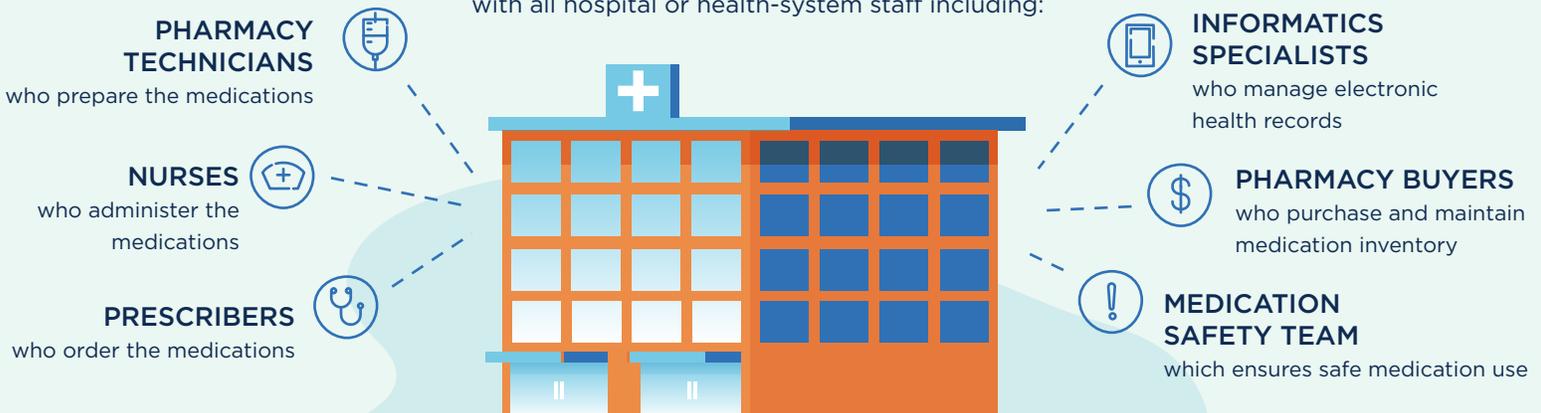
MISSED OR DELAYED THERAPIES



CANCELED PROCEDURES

COMMUNICATION

Once a drug shortage response plan is finalized, the team must communicate with all hospital or health-system staff including:



For more information about drug shortages, including current shortages, visit

[ASHP.org/Drug-Shortages](https://www.ashp.org/Drug-Shortages)

