

# Medications for Epilepsy: Choices, Chances, and Changes

KARI VAVRA JANES, PHARM.D, BCPS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

# Objective

- ▶ *Discuss the role of the pharmacist in helping patients manage their medication regimens.*



Images available from:  
<http://www.aafp.org/news/inside-aafp/20120118pharmacypaper.html>  
<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/BiML1adIIAAhMP4.jpg>  
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/images/3495.jpg>





Pharmacists can help patients with  
epilepsy manage their medications!



A Venn diagram with three overlapping circles. The left circle is purple and labeled 'Community'. The right circle is blue and labeled 'Hospital'. The overlapping area in the center is green and labeled 'Both'. The background is a dark blue gradient with a light blue vertical bar in the top right corner.

## Community

- Address brand/generic/manufacturer switch concerns
- Insurance coverage/affordability

## Both

- Adherence
- Dosing
- Drug interaction screening
- Education
- Profile review
- Side effect monitoring

## Hospital

- Drug level monitoring
- IV to oral dose conversions
- Renal or hepatic dosing

# Patient Adherence Concerns

## Memory issues

- Medication reminders
- Switch to longer acting formulations

## Medication tolerability

- Some medications are better tolerated than others
- Suggestions on how to minimize side effects

## Medication cost

- Prescription assistance programs
- Consider lower cost alternatives

# Patient Adherence Concerns

## Transportation issues

- Sync refills to occur at the same time each month
- Some pharmacies deliver medications

## Patient perceptions

- Pharmacists can discuss concerns about efficacy
- Pharmacists can discuss concerns about side effects

## Inconvenient regimens

- Pharmacists can recommend formulations that are easier to swallow
- Pharmacists can help create medication schedules



# Pharmacists are...

- ▶ Accessible
- ▶ Knowledgeable about medications
- ▶ Trustworthy

Please feel free to ask us questions!  
We are happy to help!