

**Title:** Community and Specialty Pharmacist Role in Outpatient Management of Cystic Fibrosis Medications

**Background:** The need for cystic fibrosis (CF) medication management is crucial as the complexity of these medication regimens can be extremely burdensome to patients. Pharmacists are well-positioned to play a pivotal role in improving medication access, patient adherence, and refill coordination for patients with CF. There are several publications validating the benefit of pharmacist involvement in CF patient care within an inpatient clinical setting. However, limited research has examined the extent of pharmacist involvement outside of inpatient care. This study aims to evaluate the roles, responsibilities, and resource allocation of pharmacists in the outpatient management of CF, with a focus on community and specialty pharmacy settings not affiliated with Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF)-accredited centers.

**Methods:** This will be an observational study analyzing pharmacists and pharmacy technicians involved in the Illinois Pharmacist Association (IPhA), Illinois Retail Merchant Association (IRMA), and AcariaHealth specialty pharmacy. Data collection was open from February 14, 2025 – March 14, 2025. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the responses. Findings will then be compared to the results from a previous independent study.

**Results:** A total of 28 respondents completed the survey, with most representing community off-site settings. Most pharmacies (81.8%) served 0–50 patients with CF, and 85.7% indicated having no full-time equivalents (FTEs) dedicated to CF care. Pharmacists primarily handled clinical tasks, while technicians focused on logistical support. Limited participation from specialty pharmacists restricted further comparison across settings.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights the limited integration and resource allocation of pharmacists in the outpatient management of cystic fibrosis, particularly within community pharmacy settings. Despite their potential to significantly impact medication access, adherence, and patient care coordination, many pharmacy settings lack dedicated personnel and structured workflows specific to these patients. These findings point to a need for increased staffing support, expanded technician roles, and stronger collaboration between community and specialty pharmacies.