

## **Designing a New Patient to Pharmacist Ratio**

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### **Purpose.**

Develop an objective tool to create an optimal patient to pharmacist ratio for different types of clinical service teams.

### **Summary.**

The role of the pharmacist on the inpatient care team continues to expand. In addition to expanding scope of pharmacist practice, patient acuity continues to increase as well. The University of Kansas Health System (TUKHS) utilized objective metrics to develop a scoring tool for each clinical service team to design a patient to pharmacist ratio. A committee of inpatient pharmacists determined the metrics to be included in the patient ratio based on previous literature and the current pharmacy practices at TUKHS. Data for each metric was collected from the electronic medical record. The metrics included for each clinical service were average daily census, case mix index, use of pharmacy intensive medications, renal impairment, transitions of care need and drug expense. Utilization of the tool showed overall patient acuity per clinical service team and was used to determine our patient to pharmacist ratio based on current staffing practices.

### **Conclusion.**

A data-driven tool was built to develop a patient to pharmacist ratio for all clinical service types within a health system. Continued use of this tool and analysis of pharmacist allocation to various clinical service teams can allow for optimal patient care.